SUPERMAN

Post-CRISIS ON INFINITE EARTHS

Volume 49:

Armageddon 2001

SKULLDUGGERY

SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNOLOGICAL ADVANCED RESEARCH LABORATORIES, METROPOLIS...

AND YOU'RE SURE THAT YOUR NEW *INHIBITOR CYLINDER* WILL KEEP THE *PARASITE* CONTAINED, PROFESSOR?

DREAM ON! I'VE GOTTEN OUTTA WORSE THAN THIS!

PAY HIM NO MIND, SUPERMAN. I DARE SAY THAT HE HAS NEVER BEEN SO COMPLETELY INCARCERATED.

THE PARASITE CANNOT HARM ANYONE FROM WITHIN THAT TUBE... BUT WE ARE STILL ABLE TO STUDY HIS ENERGY-LEECHING POWERS.

DR. LEUNG HERE DESERVES MUCH OF THE CREDIT FOR THAT!

PROFESSOR HAMILTON IS OVERLY GENEROUS...

ROGER STERN WRITER • BOB McLEOD & DENIS RODIER ARTISTS • BILL OAKLEY LETTERER • GLENN WHITMORE COLORIST • DAN THORSLAND ASSISTANT • MIKE CARLIN EDITOR • JERRY SIEGEL & JOE SHUSTER CREATORS

... I MERELY SUGGESTED A FEW REFINEMENTS IN HIS DESIGNS.

BUT YOU'RE BOTH CERTAIN THAT HE CAN'T BREAK OUT OF THAT?

AS CERTAIN AS IS POSSIBLE. THE INHIBITOR RENDERS HIM MUCH TOO WEAK TO BREAK OUT... AND IT HAS DOZENS OF FAILSAFES.

%o#@*!!

YES, EVEN IF THE ENTIRE BUILDING LOST POWER, THE CYLINDER'S BACK-UP SYSTEMS WOULD KEEP IT RUNNING -- FOR OVER A WEEK!

HE COULDN'T ESCAPE WITHOUT OUTSIDE HELP. AND WHAT LUNATIC WOULD FREE A MAN WHOSE TOUCH CAN KILL?

... JUST THE SAME, I HOPE S.T.A.R.'S SECURITY STAYS ON THE BALL.

WOW! IT'S HIM... IT'S REALLY *HIM!*

NOT TO WORRY. NO ONE CAN GET INTO THAT SECTION WITHOUT SPECIAL CLEARANCE.

LATER...

AH, *THERE* YOU ARE, JOE -- I WAS BEGINNING TO THINK YOU'D FORGOTTEN YOUR APPOINTMENT!

SORRY I'M LATE, DOC. I HAD TO PICK UP SOME TICKETS AND THEN --!

WELL... *LOOK!* IT'S *SUPERMAN*... RIGHT HERE... IN THE FLESH!

INCREDIBLE!

Y'KNOW, I'VE BEEN A FAN OF THE OLD SERIAL HEROES ALL MY LIFE -- CAPTAIN THUNDER, COMMANDO CODY, AND ALL -- BUT SUPERMAN... HE'S THE *REAL THING!*

NEVER THOUGHT I'D GET THIS CLOSE TO HIM!

UH-HUH. IF YOU CAN PULL YOURSELF AWAY, WE'LL GET ON WITH THE EXAM.

YOU ARE STILL SUFFERING PERIODIC FATIGUE?

'FRAID SO. I DO APPRECIATE THIS, DOC. MY REGULAR PHYSICIAN WASN'T ABLE TO FIND ANYTHING WRONG WITH ME.

NEITHER HAVE I ... SO FAR. BUT... YOU SAID THE FATIGUE STARTED ABRUPTLY?

YEAH, JUST A FEW MONTHS AGO.

RONDO

WE HARDLY KNEW YE

UMM-HMM. THEN THERE ARE A FEW MORE TESTS I'D LIKE TO RUN. JOE?

MR. MARTIN?

HUH?! OH, SURE... WHATEVER YOU SAY.

WOW.

HAM CAN AFFORD TO BE PRAGMATIC ABOUT THE PARASITE... HE DIDN'T SEE THE SUBWAY TRAIN-FUL OF BODIES THAT HUMAN LEECH LEFT IN HIS PATH. *

I'LL NEVER FORGET THAT SIGHT ... AS LONG AS I LIVE.

NOT EVEN MY POWERS ARE A PROTECTION FROM THAT KILLER. STOPPING HIM TOOK A LOT OUT OF ME. ** IF HE SHOULD GET LOOSE AGAIN--!

* ADVENTURES OF SUPERMAN #481.
** A.O.S. #482.

I'D WORRY A LOT LESS IF THE PROFESSOR'S HARDWARE HAD A BETTER REPUTATION FOR ENDUR-ANCE. AND S.T.A.R. LABS' TRACK RECORD ISN'T EXACTLY UN-BLEMISHED--

--ESPECIALLY IN LIGHT OF THEIR CONNECTION WITH THAT *PROJECT ANGSTROM* MESS!*

* MAN OF STEEL #4.

I'M NOT FAMILIAR WITH ANY OF S.T.A.R.'S LOCAL PERSONNEL... NOT SINCE KITTY FAULKNER LEFT TOWN.

WHAT DOES ANYONE REALLY KNOW ABOUT S.T.A.R. ANY-MORE? MAYBE IT'S TIME SOMEONE STARTED PURSUING THAT QUESTION.

THAT SOUNDS LIKE A JOB FOR--

--MY BEAUTIFUL BRIDE-TO-BE! AFTER ALL, LOIS DOES HAVE A PERSONAL STAKE IN THE ANGSTROM BUSINESS THROUGH HER FATHER'S INVOLVEMENT...

...AND I'M LIKELY TO BE PRETTY BUSY THESE NEXT FEW WEEKS. I MAY HAVE BROKEN THE BACK OF THE *INTERGANG* ORGANIZATION--*

--BUT THERE ARE STILL PLENTY OF INTER-GANGSTERS AT LARGE TO DEMAND SUPERMAN'S ATTENTION.

* SUPERMAN #60.

HI, GORGEOUS, I WAS IN THE NEIGHBORHOOD, AND--!

WHU--?

HIYA, MR. KENT! BET YOU'RE SURPRISED TO SEE *ME* HERE, HUH?

AS A MATTER OF FACT, YES. HOW HAVE YOU BEEN, ALLIE?

NOT BAD. PRETTY BORED, THOUGH, SINCE THE *PLANET* WENT ON STRIKE...

...THAT'S WHY LOIS SUGGESTED THAT I COME ON OVER. THERE'S NO COPYING TO BE DONE, BUT AT LEAST I CAN LEND MORAL SUPPORT!

HEY, EVERYBODY, LOOK WHO'S HERE!

HULLO, KENT.

HI, CLARK!

WHAT'S ANOTHER GOOD WORD FOR "ACCIDENT"?

TRY "MISHAP."

UH-HUH, THANKS. GOTTA GO NOW! 'BYE!

CLARK--!

C'MON, ELROY, LET'S GET YOU SOME TUNA.

HI, BABE! THIS IS A SURPRISE!

:MMM-MWHA!:

MMM... SURPRISE IS THE WORD FOR IT.

LOIS, WHAT'S GOING ON?

OH... WELL... WE'RE NOT THE ONLY *PLANET* REPORTERS WITH SYNDICATION DEALS, YOU KNOW. BUT NOT EVERYONE IS THRILLED TO BE USING LAPTOPS AND MODEMS TO SEND STORIES TO THE WIRE SERVICES, SO...

...YOU ORGANIZED A LITTLE SUPPORT GROUP.

I ASK YOU, IS IT ANY WONDER THAT HE'S AN INVESTIGATIVE REPORTER?

CARE TO LEND US YOUR OWN EXPERTISE?

WELL...

THERE'S AN INCH OR TWO OF SPACE LEFT UNCLAIMED, CLARK.

COME ON AND JOIN THE *PLANET* CITY-ROOM-IN-EXILE!

YEAH, I'VE GOT THIS MODEM STUFF LICKED, BUT I'D LOVE TO LEARN WHERE YOU FIND YOUR SOURCES.

?

EVERYBODY HUSH! *LISTEN!*

...STRIKE AT THE CITY'S LEADING METROPOLITAN NEWSPAPER NOW IN ITS SECOND WEEK WITH NO SIGNS OF A SETTLEMENT IN SIGHT.

AT ISSUE ARE WAGE CUTS AND A RESTRUCTURING OF BENEFITS WHICH UNION LEADERS HAVE CATEGORICALLY TURNED DOWN!

DAILY PLANET

DAILY PLANET UNFAIR

WE WANT A REAL OFFER!

ON STRIKE

UNFAIR

DAILY PLANET

"THE CUTS DEMANDED BY MANAGEMENT WOULD REDUCE TAKE-HOME PAY TO A POINT WHERE MANY WORKERS WOULD QUALIFY FOR FOOD STAMPS...

"...AND LEAVE THE REST OF US WITH A BILL FOR MEDICAL INSURANCE WHICH WE'D BE UNABLE TO PAY! MANAGEMENT'S OFFER IS BENEATH CONTEMPT--

"--WE'LL CLOSE THIS PAPER BEFORE WE SUBMIT TO SUCH ARROGANCE!" ...SO SAID STRIKE ORGANIZER JEB FRIEDMAN OF THE PRESSMEN'S UNION.

GREAT CAESAR'S GHOST... IS THIS WHAT WE'VE COME TO?

I NEVER SHOULD HAVE LEFT THE CITY.

YOU DESERVED A REST, PERRY... YOU HADN'T TAKEN A REAL VACATION IN YEARS!

YES, AND WHILE I WAS GONE, THE BOARD MADE A FINE MESS OF THINGS! WERE YOU PEOPLE *BORN* STUPID, OR DID YOU HAVE TO WORK AT IT?!

NOW SEE HERE, WHITE...

NO, *YOU* SEE HERE...

...ESPECIALLY *YOU*, FOSWELL! YOU WERE RUNNING THE *PLANET* IN MY STEAD... YOU'RE AN OLD NEWSPAPER-MAN LIKE ME... WHY DIDN'T YOU STAND UP FOR OUR PEOPLE?!

THERE WEREN'T THAT MANY LAY-OFFS AMONGST THE REPORTING STAFF... IT WAS MAINLY JUST THE PRESSMEN WHO WERE AFFECTED.

JUST THE PRESSMEN? WHO DO YOU THINK *PRINTS* THE PAPER?!

RELAX, PERRY... FOSWELL DID ONLY WHAT HE SHOULD HAVE DONE... WHAT WE TOLD HIM TO. THE *DAILY PLANET* HAS TO BE RUN MORE EFFICIENTLY--!

DOING WHAT YOU WANTED HASN'T RESULTED IN AN EFFICIENT OPERATION, HAS IT? YOUR PAPER... MY PAPER IS ON *STRIKE*... THANKS TO YOU, LING!

WHAT WERE YOU THINKING?!

PERRY, TIMES ARE BAD... WE HAVE A DEBT--!

DAMMIT, YOU DON'T BALANCE THE BOOKS BY BREAKING THE BACKS OF YOUR WORKERS!

WHAM

I DON'T MUCH CARE FOR PROFESSIONAL UNION MEN LIKE JEB FRIEDMAN, BUT I HAVE TO AGREE WITH HIM ON THIS!

IF YOU WON'T BE REASONABLE, I'M WASTING MY BREATH!

PERRY, WHERE ARE YOU GOING?

I DON'T KNOW... *MAYBE* TO JOIN A PICKET LINE!

WHY WON'T THEY LISTEN TO REASON? IF THEY DON'T *COME* TO THEIR SENSES *SOON*, THE *DAILY PLANET* WILL BE HISTORY.

LORD, I WISH I HAD A CIGAR!

WHAT A MONTH... METROPOLIS HAS BEEN HIT BY RECESSION, EARTHQUAKES, FIRES AND STRIKES! THINGS *HAVE* TO GET BETTER...

I'M TELLIN' YOU, I CAN'T TURN TO LEAD, 'CAUSE THERE'S NO LEAD IN MY BODY!
YEAH? LAST TIME I SAW YOU IN ACTION, YOU LOOKED LIKE YOU HAD LEAD IN YER--
ASBESTOS! COULD YOU TURN TO ASBESTOS, IF YOU INHALED NEXT TO A FIRE CURTAIN?
IS ZIS WHAT PASSES FOR 'UMOR AMONG ZE AMERICAN MEN?
DON'T ASK ME. SUPERHEROES DIDN'T HAVE SENSES OF HUMOR ON MY WORLD.
WELL, AT LEAST WE'RE RID OF THAT JERK HEIMLICH.*
YEAH... ALTHOUGH I WOULDN'T BE SO SURE WE'VE SEEN THE LAST OF HIM.
IF YOU'LL PARDON THE OMINOUS REMARK.
IS IT TRUE WHAT THEY SAY ABOUT RUSSIAN MEN?
I DID NOT KNOW THEY SAID ANYTHING ABOUT RUSSIAN MEN.
:SNORT: HOW OBVIOUS CAN YOU GET? I NEED ANOTHER DIET SODA.
IS THERE ANY NEWS ON MAX, J'ONN?
TOO MUCH TIME
SEE JLA #55 - A.H.€K.D.

A GIFFEN, JONES, CARR, ELLIOTT, HEISLER, D'ANGELO, DOOLEY, HELFER PRODUCTION (WITH HELP FROM A LOT OF FRIENDLY ARTISTS)

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G-6030

HIS CONDITION HAS STABILIZED. IT WAS TOUCH AND GO THERE FOR QUITE A WHILE.

EVERYONE FEELS HIS ABSENCE...EVEN IF THEY WON'T ADMIT IT.

GATHERINGS LIKE THIS ONE HAVE *NEVER* BEEN SO SUBDUED.

NOW, NOW. I'VE HEARD ABOUT THOSE VOLGA BOATMEN...

YOU DON'T HAVE TO TELL ME.

NOW IT'S TIME TO TRY TO PULL THINGS TOGETHER.

AS MUCH AS THEY CAN BE, WITHOUT MAX.

WELL, WE WILL CONTINUE THIS LATER, YES?

KEEP 'EM FLYIN'!

SEE YOU GUYS.

NOT TOO SOON, I HOPE.

UH... CATH? CAN YOU HOLD ON A MINUTE?

WHAT'S WRONG, CAP?

I'VE BEEN THINKING, AND... I'M NOT GOING BACK WITH YOU.

WHAT?

SO MUCH HAS HAPPENED SO FAST. I NEED SOME TIME TO THINK THINGS THROUGH.

BUT... BUT WE NEED YOU NOW MORE THAN EVER!
DAMN STRAIGHT!
I KNOW. I'M SORRY. I JUST... HAVE TO BE ALONE FOR A WHILE. LET THINGS FILTER OUT.

OF COURSE, WE'LL... WE'LL TRY TO UNDER-STAND...
SPEAK FOR YOUR-SELF! WHAT BUSINESS DOES HE HAVE CUT-TING OUT ON US RIGHT WHEN--
KARA! PLEASE! CAP, WILL YOU BE BACK?

OF COURSE I'LL BE BACK, CATH... AFTER A WHILE.
BUT WHEN? AND... UNDER WHAT CONDITIONS?

I... DON'T KNOW.

I SUPPOSE THIS MEANS THAT IDIOT BLUE JAY IS IN CHARGE AGAIN?
HONESTLY, KARA. AND I THOUGHT YOU WERE GETTING BETTER THESE LAST FEW WEEKS.
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THE LONDON EMBASSY OF JUSTICE LEAGUE EUROPE...

AW COME ON. HE'LL COME CRAWLIN' BACK SQUARES LIKE H'M ALWAYS DO.

SO WHY DID HE LEAVE US IN THE *FIRST* PLACE? ;FEH!

I NEED A ROOT BEER DOES ANYBODY ELSE WANT A DIET ROOT BEER?

CATHERINE! THANK GOODNESS YOU'RE BACK!

WHAT IS IT, SUE?

THEY'VE BEEN WA T NG FOR ALL OF YOU THEY WERE JUST ABOUT TO HEAD TO THE NEW YORK EMBASSY.

"THEY? WHO--?

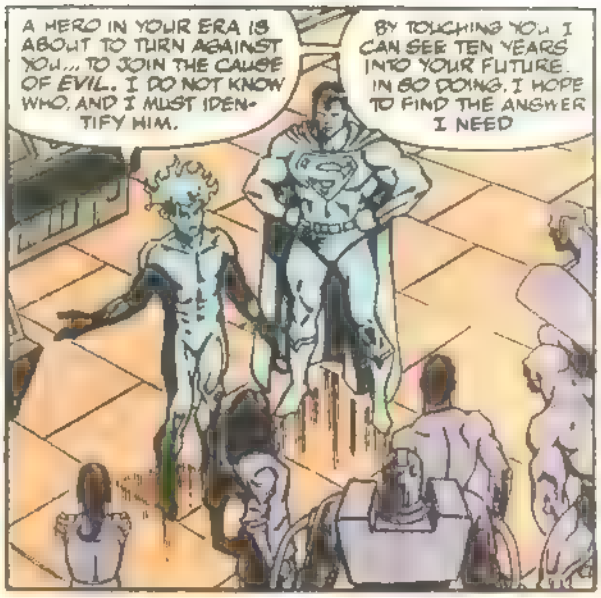
THEM.

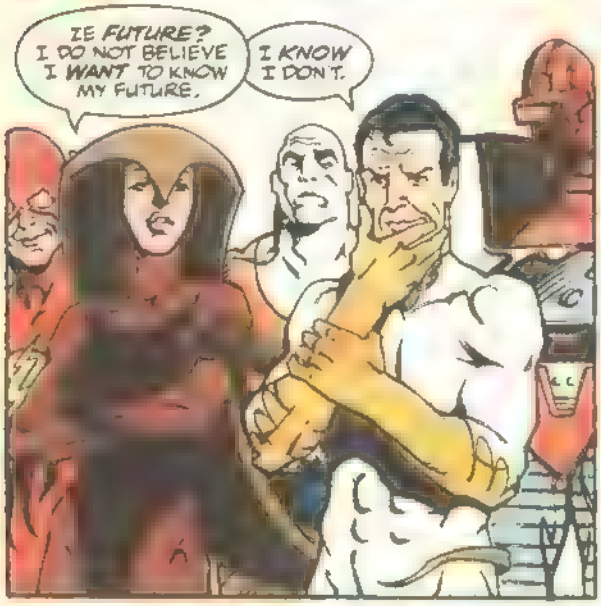
GOOD AFTERNOON! OR.. MORNING? GLOBE-HOPPING LIKE THIS HAS ME A BIT--

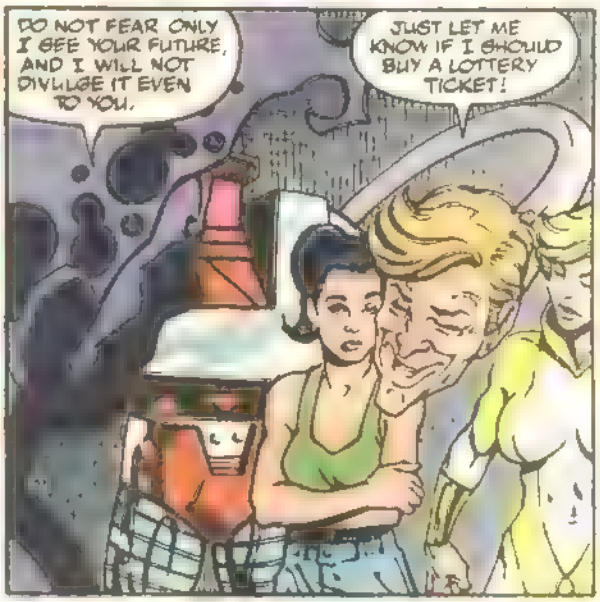
WHAT *IS* .T, SUPERMAN? IS ANYTHING WRONG?

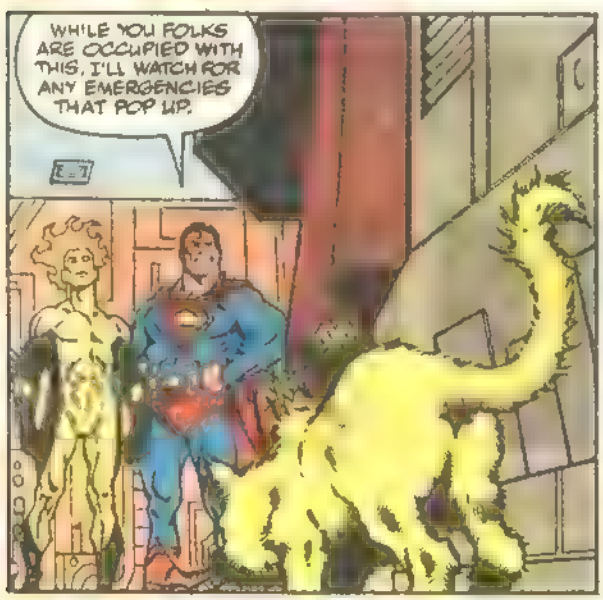
THAT DEPENDS . ON WHAT *WAVERIDER* DISCOVERS HERE.

HE'S FROM THE FUTURE, AND HE'S COME TO OUR TIME TO SAVE HIS OWN.
APPARENTLY, I'VE ALREADY HAD SEVERAL ENCOUNTERS WITH HIM MYSELF...
AFTER OUR LAST CONTACT, HE APPEARED TO ME IN SOLID FORM SO I COULD HELP HIM.
I CAN'T SAY WHY BUT I FEEL THE TRUTH OF HIS WORDS.
TELL THEM WHY YOU'RE HERE, WAVE RIDER


A HERO IN YOUR ERA IS ABOUT TO TURN AGAINST YOU... TO JOIN THE CAUSE OF EVIL. I DO NOT KNOW WHO, AND I MUST IDENTIFY HIM.
BY TOUCHING YOU, I CAN SEE TEN YEARS INTO YOUR FUTURE. IN SO DOING, I HOPE TO FIND THE ANSWER I NEED

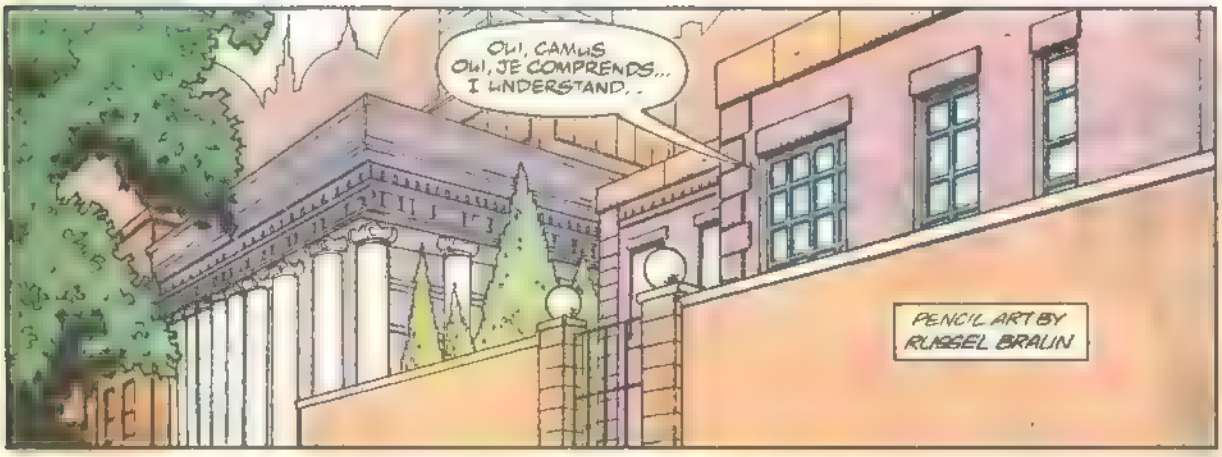

IE FUTURE? I DO NOT BELIEVE I WANT TO KNOW MY FUTURE.
I KNOW I DON'T.

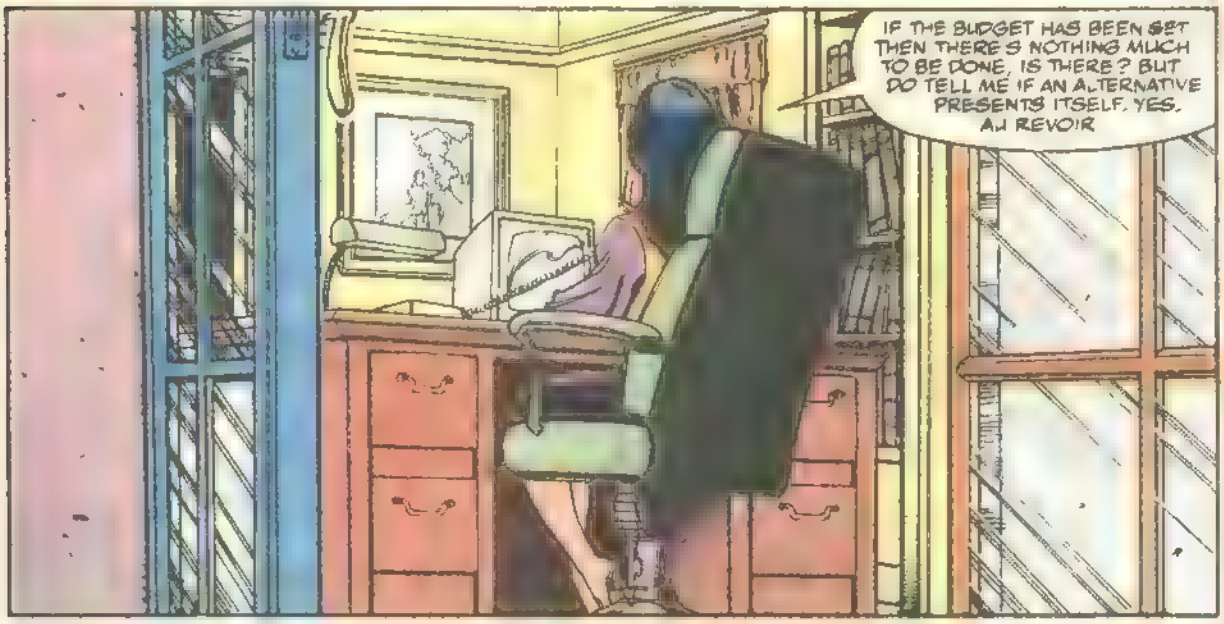

DO NOT FEAR ONLY I SEE YOUR FUTURE, AND I WILL NOT DIVULGE IT EVEN TO YOU.
JUST LET ME KNOW IF I SHOULD BUY A LOTTERY TICKET!


WHILE YOU FOLKS ARE OCCUPIED WITH THIS, I'LL WATCH FOR ANY EMERGENCIES THAT POP UP.

AND WHY DO I NOT KNOW THIS CHAP?
9

THERE'S NOTHING IN THE FILES ABOUT HIM, MR. BIGGER, S.R. HE BEARS A PHYSICAL RESEMBLANCE TO *FIRESTORM*, BUT...
DON'T BE ABSURD. FIRESTORM NEVER HAD THE ABILITIES THAT *THIS* ONE CLAIMS TO HAVE.
WE HAVE NO RECORD OF *ANYONE* WITH SUCH POWERS, S.R.
DIG DEEPER THEN. I MUST KNOW EVERYTHING I CAN ABOUT THIS FELLOW.
TO SEE THE *FUTURE*. GREAT HEAVENS.
WELL I SUPPOSE THAT SINCE I'M IN *CHARGE* HERE...I SHOULD SUBMIT FIRST.
AS YOU WISH.
CONTACT.
6


OUI, CAMUS
OUI, JE COMPRENDS...
I UNDERSTAND...
PENCIL ART BY
RUSSEL BRAUN


IF THE BUDGET HAS BEEN SET THEN THERE'S NOTHING MUCH TO BE DONE, IS THERE? BUT DO TELL ME IF AN ALTERNATIVE PRESENTS ITSELF. YES, AU REVOIR

OH DEAR, WHY DID WE EVER DECIDE TO REMAIN IN BUSINESS AFTER THE J.L.I. FRAGMENTED?*
*SEE JLA ANNUAL, S'IL VOUS PLAIT.

WHEN INTERPOL OFFERED TO SPONSOR US, I THOUGHT WE'D SETTLED OUR PROBLEMS.
BUT OBVIOUSLY THEY ARE NOT AS UNDERSTANDING AS MAX LORD WAS.

SOMETIMES I WOULD SWEAR THEY ARE EMBARRASSED BY US.

COME TO THINK OF IT SOMETIMES I AM EMBARRASSED BY US.

EMPTY OF COURSE WHY SHOULD ANY OF *THEM* MAKE A GROCERY TRIP? THEY'RE *HEROES.* :-HMPH:

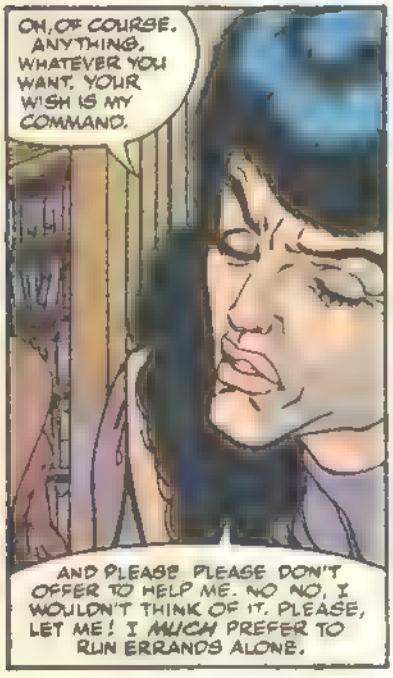
KARA EVEN FINISHED ALL OF HER DIET SODA-- WHICH MEANS I HAVE TO HAUL IN ANOTHER THREE TWELVE-PACKS OR HEAR ABOUT IT ALL WEEK!

:-BAH: I'M A *MOTHER,* NOT AN ADMINISTRATOR.

AH, SUE, I CERTAINLY DO MISS HAVING YOU ABOUT. BUT YOU ARE ENTITLED TO PURSUE YOUR OWN INTERESTS, I SUPPOSE..

. ALTHOUGH I STILL WONDER IF YOU AND KILOWOG CAN TRULY MAKE A GO OF A BOUTIQUE SELLING *DESIGNER TELEPORTERS.*

ALL RIGHT I'M GOING TO MARKET. TELL ME WHAT YOU ALL NEED
ARE YOU GOING TO THE GREENGROCERS OR THE FISHMONGERS?
OR MAYBE THE GREENMONGERS?
BRING ME SOME O' THOSE NACHOS-IN-A-CAN THEY GOT NOW.
AND ZE ESCARGOT LITE, PLEASE.
SOUR CREAM. YOU NEVER BUY ENOUGH SOUR CREAM.
I DON'T CARE WHAT YOU GET, JUST GET MORE THAN YOU THINK WE NEED.
AND DON'T FORGET THE DIET DRINKS!


OH, OF COURSE. ANYTHING, WHATEVER YOU WANT. YOUR WISH IS MY COMMAND.
AND PLEASE PLEASE DON'T OFFER TO HELP ME. NO NO, I WOULDN'T THINK OF IT. PLEASE, LET ME! I MUCH PREFER TO RUN ERRANDS ALONE.

HMPH!
HWUKH GAK

AT LEAST IT'S STOPPED RAINING. AT LEAST LONDON SEEMS TO WANT TO HELP ME.

OH LA LA! STUPIDE!
I'VE FORGOTTEN MY DISCOUNT CARD. I SWEAR, THIS BUDGET IS GOING TO--
MM?
WHOOMP!
OH.
AND I SUPPOSE I WILL HAVE TO FIX THIS, TOO

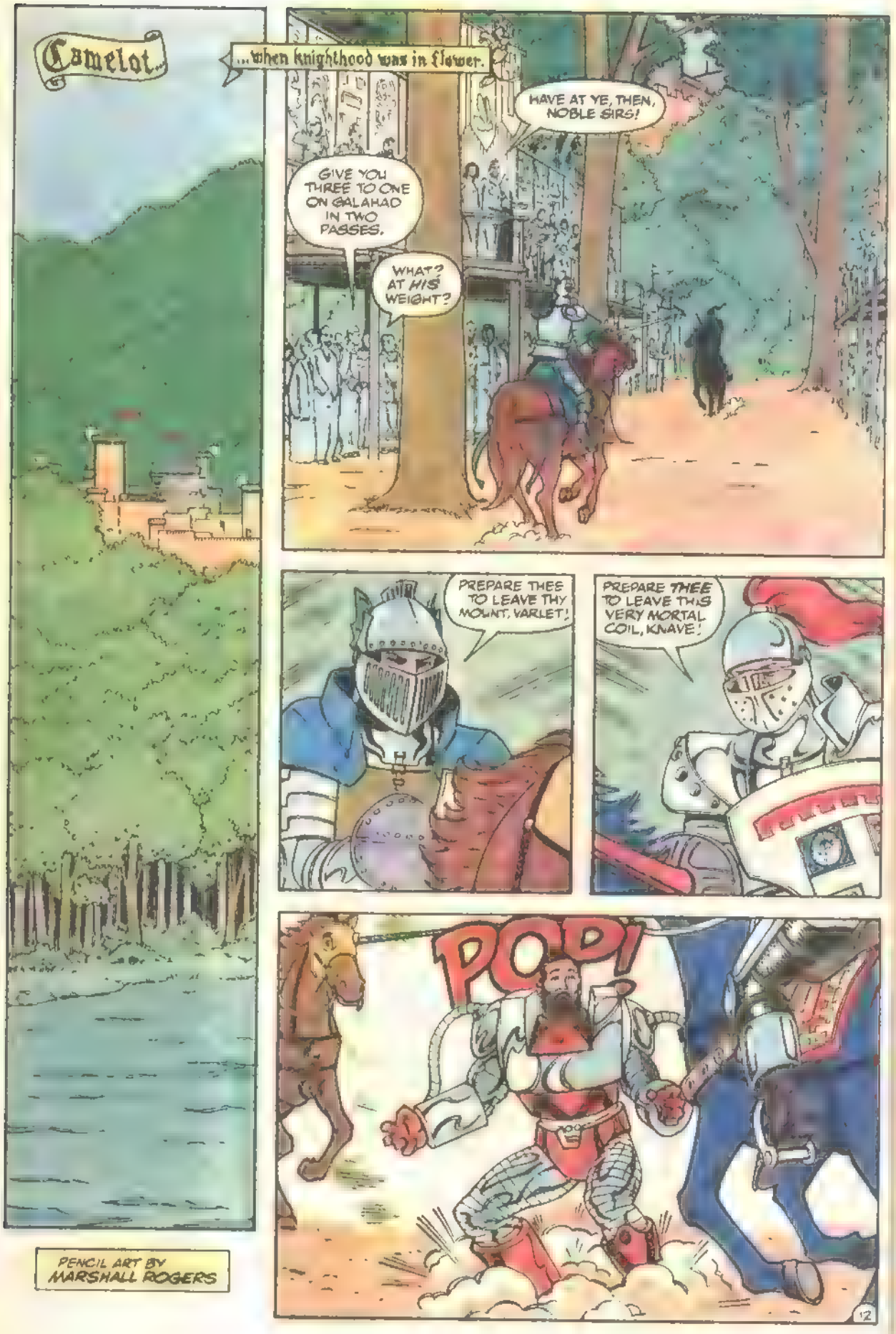
OH!
WHAT IS IT? WHAT DID YOU SEE?
I..I..

NO. IT IS. NOTHING
NOTHING?
YOU SURE DIDN'T LOOK LIKE YOU SAW NOTHING!

PLEASE. I MUST CONCENTRATE. WILL THE NEXT OF YOU PLEASE STEP FORWARD?
I'LL UH BE ON THE MONITOR.

I WILL BE NEXT
YES. AS YOU WISH.

CONTACT.

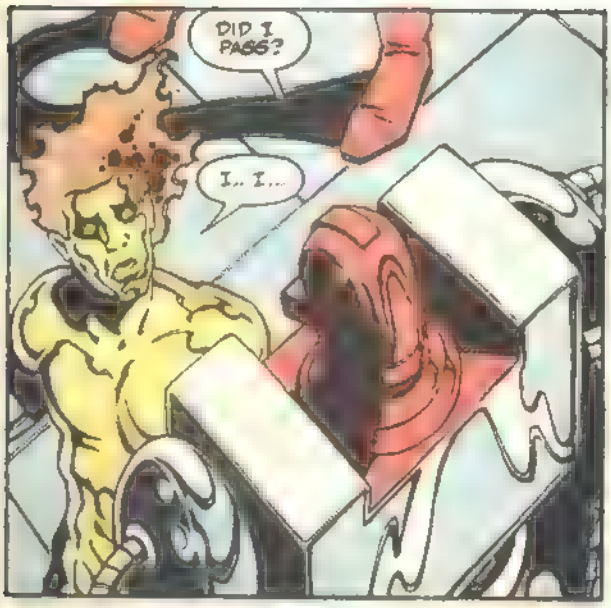

Camelot...
...when knighthood was in flower.
HAVE AT YE, THEN, NOBLE SIRS!
GIVE YOU THREE TO ONE ON GALAHAD IN TWO PASSES.
WHAT? AT HIS WEIGHT?
PREPARE THEE TO LEAVE THY MOUNT, VARLET!
PREPARE THEE TO LEAVE THIS VERY MORTAL COIL, KNAVE!
POP!
12

PENCIL ART BY
MARSHALL ROGERS

BUNNY
a lang lang lang
ZOUNDS!
ODS-BODIKINS!
WHO DARES PRACTICE SORCERY UNDER THE VERY NOSE OF MERLIN?
TEN YEARS IN LONDON, AND THESE CRAZY ENGLISH ARE STILL BEING SURPR S-ING TO ME!
TWO IN ONE BLOW, YOU AMAZE THIS CROWN-WEARY HEAD, OH KNIGHT OF MYSTERY!
KN-KNIGHT?
STEP FORWARD, SIR KNIGHT!
STEP FORWARD AND LET THE TIRED EYES OF KING ARTHUR ADM RE YE! NEVER HAVE I SEEN SUCH SPLENDID POWER IN MODEST LITTLE CAMELOT!
NEVER HAS HE SEEN SUCH POWER FAH! A CHEAP TRICK! I'VE DONE A DOZEN BETTER! GRRRR.

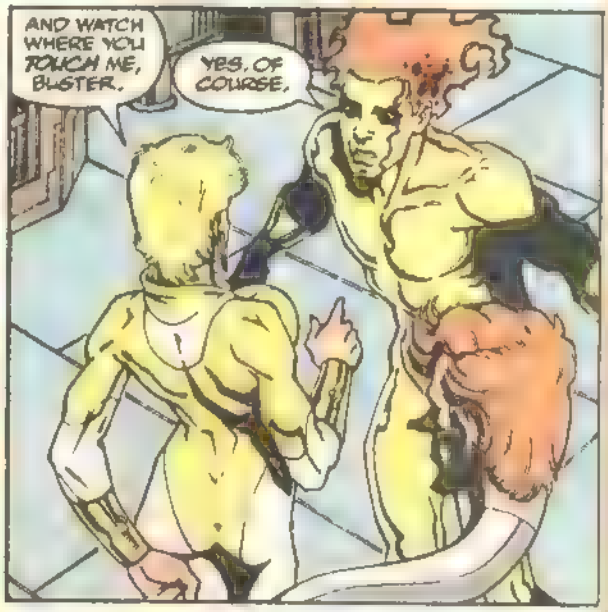
And so beganne ye legende of Sir Dmitri of ye garbled tongue...
...he who did win joustes without mount...
OKAY KNAVELET, YOU ARE HAVING ME AT! HA!
...and who did with his own pow'r slay draggones...
ALWAYS WANTING MAIDENS YOU CREEPS. WHAT WOULD YOU DO WITH A MAIDEN ANYWAY?
...and tho' his heart lay entwined with griefe...
AH MY FAMILY.. MY LITTLE MISCHA. HOW HE WOULD LOVE TO PLAY SWORDFIGHTS WITH THE LITTLE PAGES..
...didst joyne in the great jollitie of the table roundе!
TO YOU, MY FRIEND! IS GOOD RUSSIAN NAME, IVAN! BUT FROM WHERE DO YOU GET THIS CHINESE LAST NAME, "HO"?
14

Yet one there was with ENVYE consumed.
"NEVER HAVE I SEEN SUCH SPLENDID POWER!" FEH!
WITH EACH CONQUEST HIS ESTEEM RISES IN ARTHUR'S HEART, AND THUS MY OWN DECLINES.
WELL, I'LL SHOW HIM A THING OR TWO!
OR RATHER, YOU SHALL SHOW HIM, MY PET! YOU SHALL SHOW HIM WITH YOUR DARK, ENSORCELLED TERROR!
GO TO HIM, DEMON. GO TO HIM AND DO THE DEED...
...ALL THE WHILE SPOUTING YOUR HELL-SPAWNED VERSE!
THERE ONCE WAS A DEMON NAMED ETRIGAN, WHOSE POW'R WOULD AWE ANY MORTAL MAN--
HE'D COMMIT A DARK CRIME--
EEN WORSE THAN THIS RHYME--
WHEN TWAS TIME THAT THE FILER FIT THE FEH!
ZZZZZZZ-ZAK! WHA--?
HOKEY SMO--
FWSSH
And so endyth ye legende of Dmitri ye Brief.

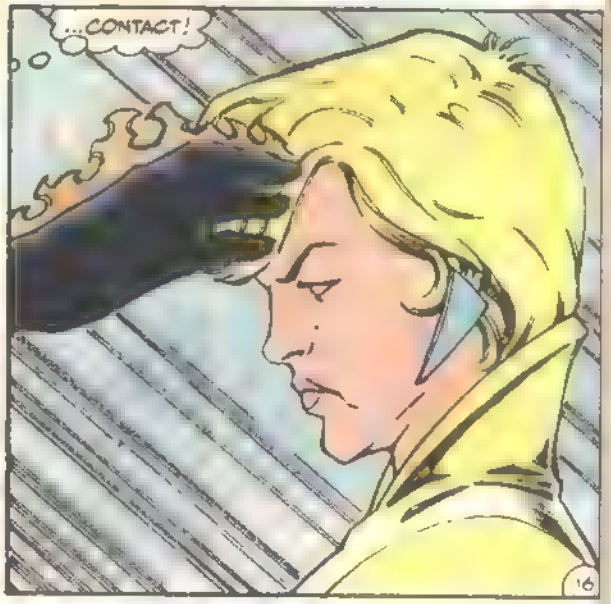

DID I PASS?
I.. I...

SO STRANGE... SO STRANGE...
YEP, THERE'S THAT "NOTHING" LOOK AGAIN.

WHO... WHO WILL BE NEXT?
ME! I JUST WANT TO GET THIS OVER WITH!


AND WATCH WHERE YOU TOUCH ME, BUSTER.
YES, OF COURSE.

I MUST NOT LET MY CONFUSION SHOW. IT IS ONLY AGITATING THEM. I MUST SIMPLY... CALMLY... MAKE...


...CONTACT!

LONDON, THE BLITZ.

POP!

PENCIL ART BY LINDA MEDLEY

WHAT—? HOW? WAIT A MINUTE...

UH-OH. NO REST FOR THE TEMPORALLY DISPLACED.

RUN, LAD! RUN!

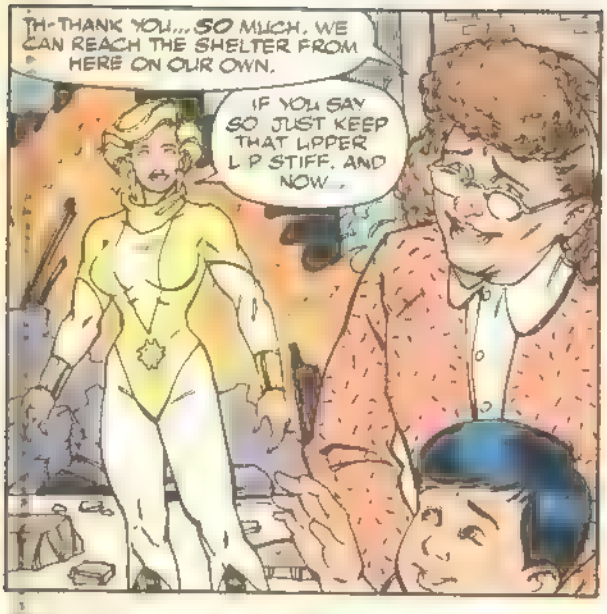
BUT--BUT WHAT ABOUT YOU, MRS. MINIVER?

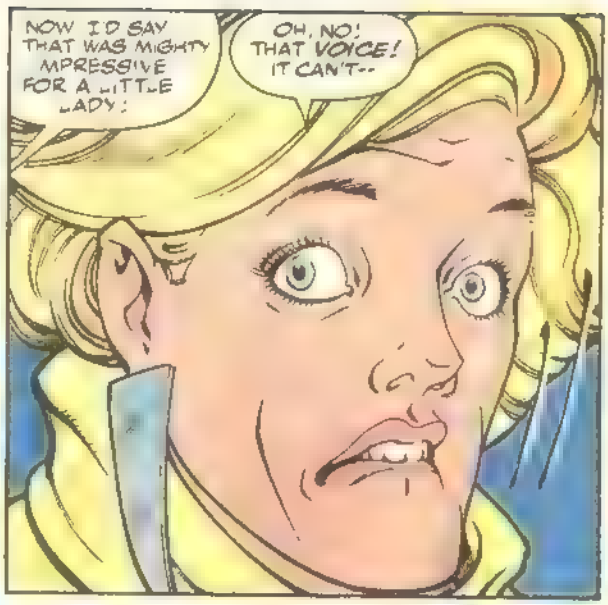
IS THAT EDWARD R. MURROW'S VOICE I HEAR FROM THAT ROOFTOP?

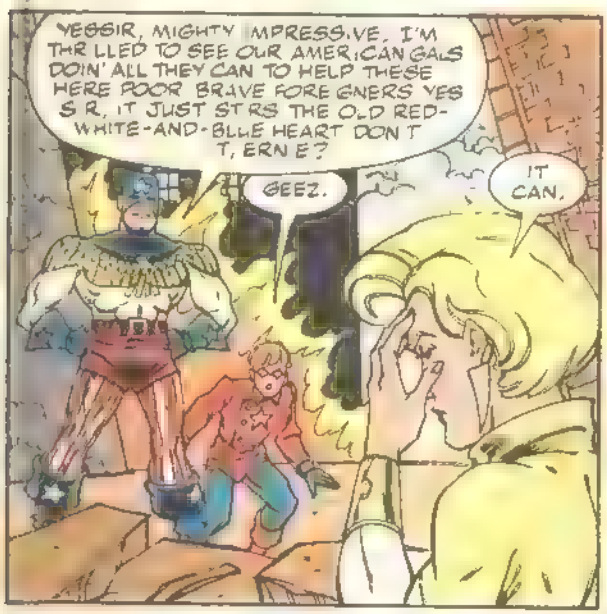
THIS MUST BE WORLD WAR II! BUT HOW..

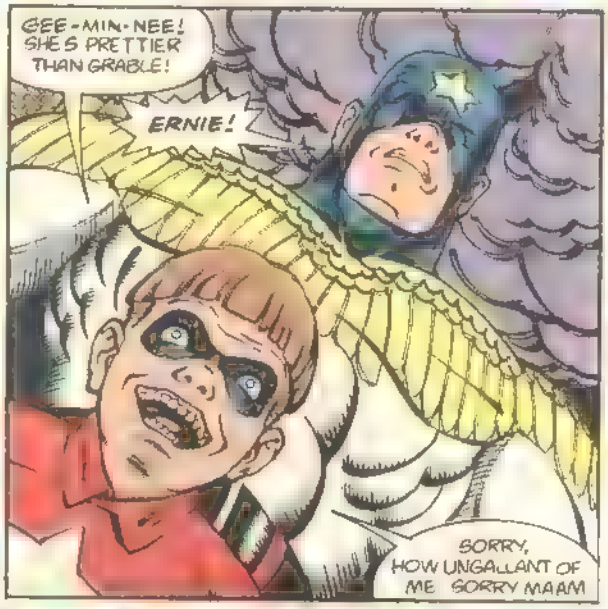
STEADY NOW. I'VE GOT YOU BOTH.

OH!

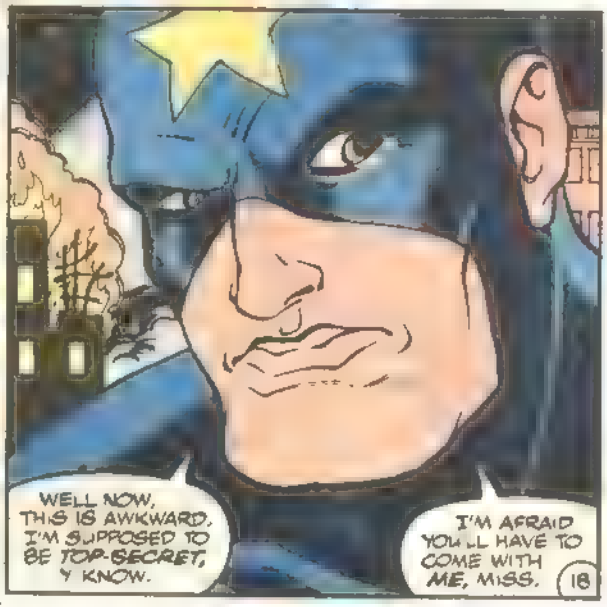

TH-THANK YOU... SO MUCH. WE CAN REACH THE SHELTER FROM HERE ON OUR OWN.
IF YOU SAY SO JUST KEEP THAT UPPER L P STIFF. AND NOW .

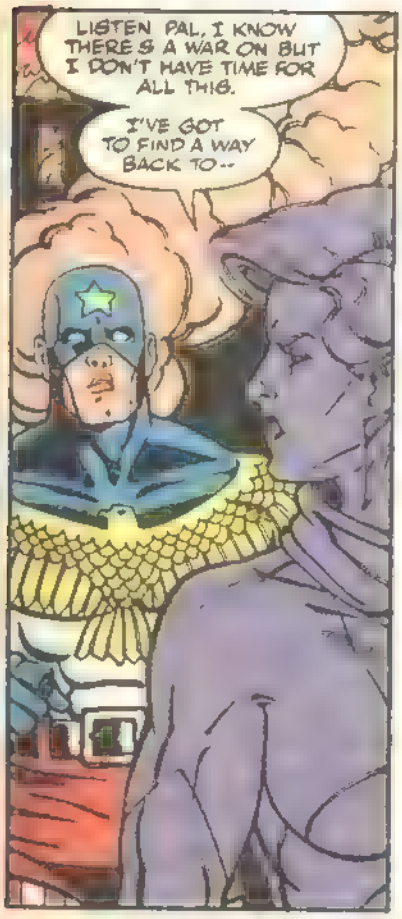

NOW I D SAY THAT WAS MIGHTY MPRESSIVE FOR A LITTLE LADY :
OH, NO! THAT VOICE! IT CAN'T--

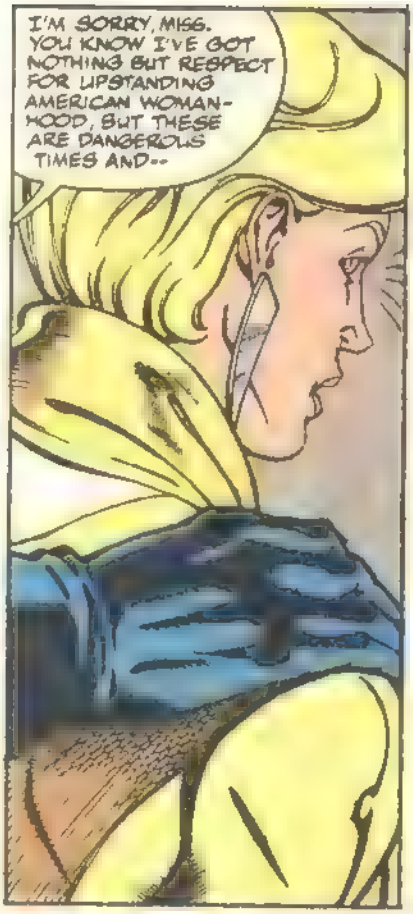

YESSIR, MIGHTY MPRESSIVE. I'M THR LLED TO SEE OUR AMERICAN GALS DOIN' ALL THEY CAN TO HELP THESE HERE POOR BRAVE FORE GNERS YES S R, IT JUST ST RS THE OLD RED-WHITE-AND-BLUE HEART DON T T, ERN E?
GEEZ.
IT CAN.


GEE-MIN-NEE! SHE S PRETTIER THAN GRABLE!
ERNIE!
SORRY, HOW UNGALLANT OF ME SORRY MAAM

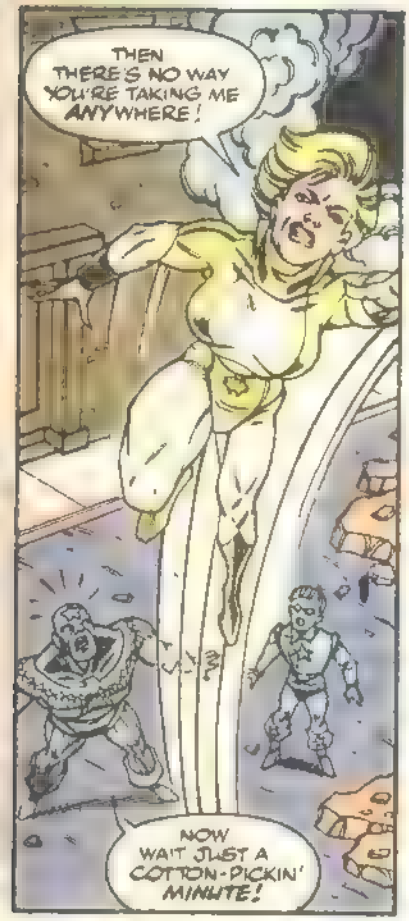
'FRAID I CAN'T TELL YOU MY NAME YOUNG LADY, BUT--
.T S GENERAL GLORY.
WHAT?! D D YOU TELL HER ERNIE?
I D DN'T SAY NOTH N, GENERAL!


WELL NOW, THIS IS AWKWARD. I'M SUPPOSED TO BE TOP-SECRET, Y KNOW.
I'M AFRAID YOU'LL HAVE TO COME WITH ME, MISS.


LISTEN PAL, I KNOW THERE'S A WAR ON BUT I DON'T HAVE TIME FOR ALL THIS.
I'VE GOT TO FIND A WAY BACK TO--

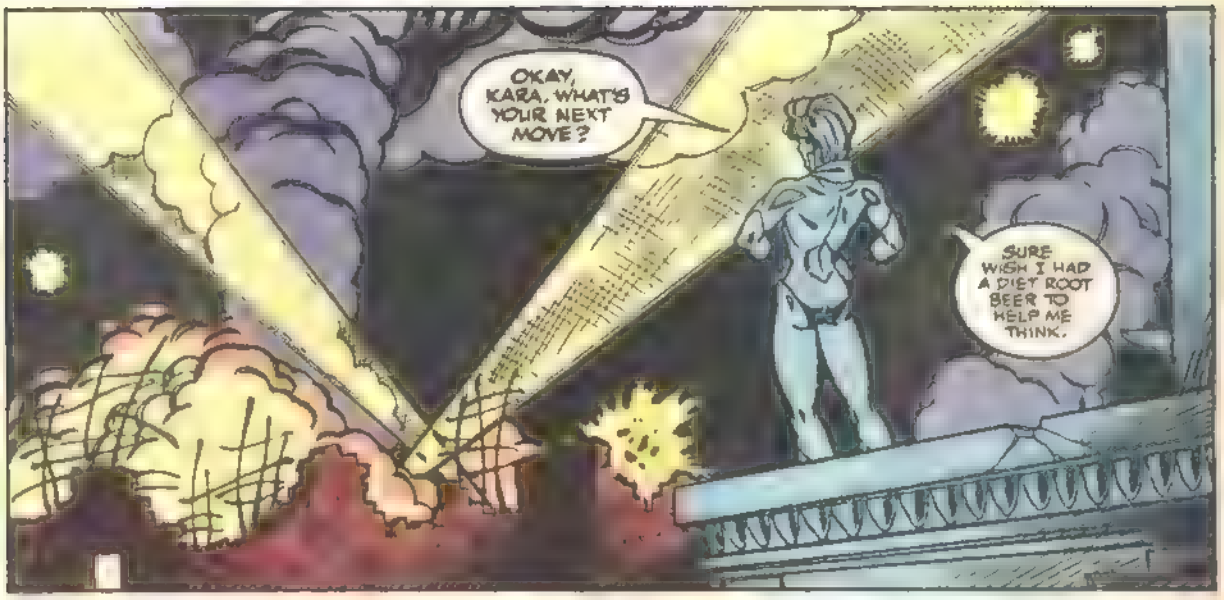

I'M SORRY, MISS. YOU KNOW I'VE GOT NOTHING BUT RESPECT FOR UPSTANDING AMERICAN WOMANHOOD, BUT THESE ARE DANGEROUS TIMES AND--

Oh, please, General. You wouldn't hit a lady, would you?
WELL... UH... OF COURSE NOT! BUT... BUT, WELL...


THEN THERE'S NO WAY YOU'RE TAKING ME ANYWHERE!
NOW WAIT JUST A COTTON-PICKIN' MINUTE!

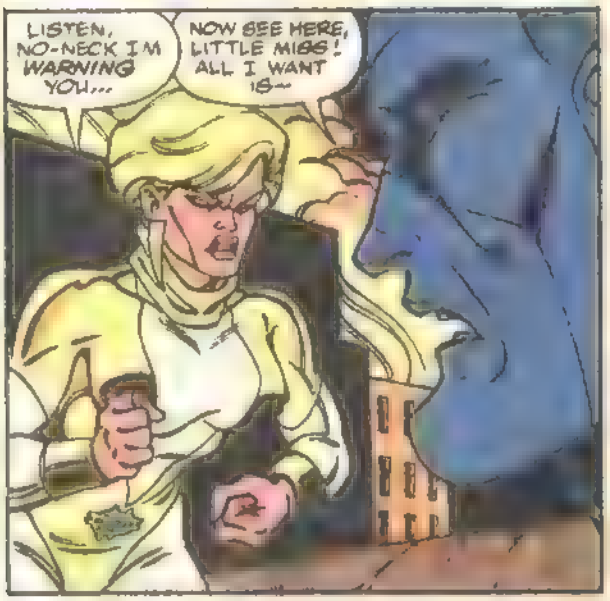
HMM, THAT'S ONE SPUNKY LITTLE MISS THERE, ERNIE. YESSIR, NOBODY CAN BEAT OUR CORNFED AMERICAN GALS FOR SPUNK.
BUT SHE'S JUST TOO DANG SPUNKY TO RUN AROUND UNCHECKED!

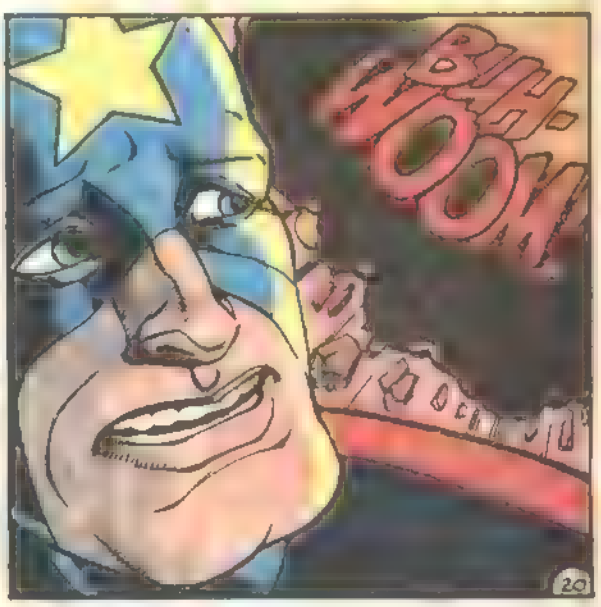
WE'D BETTER GRAB HER, ERNIE!
NOW YOU'RE TALKIN', G.G.!
ERNIE!


OKAY, KARA, WHAT'S YOUR NEXT MOVE?
SURE WISH I HAD A DIET ROOT BEER TO HELP ME THINK.

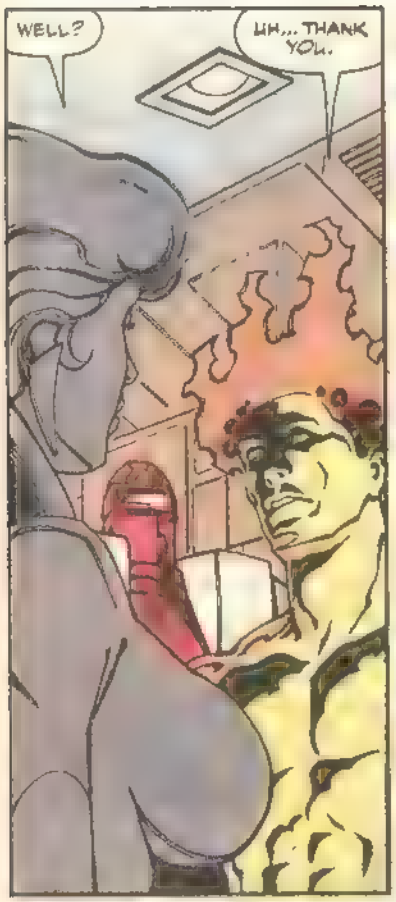
WAIT A MINUTE. THE JUSTICE SOCIETY. THEY WON'T KNOW ME IN THIS PERIOD, BUT I KNOW SOME OF THEM. MAYBE I CAN TALK THEM INTO--

ALL RIGHT, MAAM. LET'S NOT TURN THIS INTO AN UGLY SCENE.
GEEZ.
OH, GREAT.

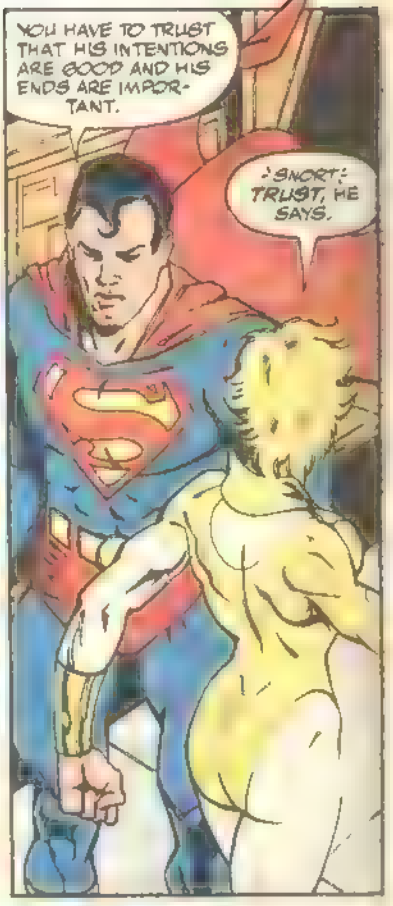

LISTEN, NO-NECK I'M WARNING YOU...
NOW SEE HERE, LITTLE MISS! ALL I WANT IS--

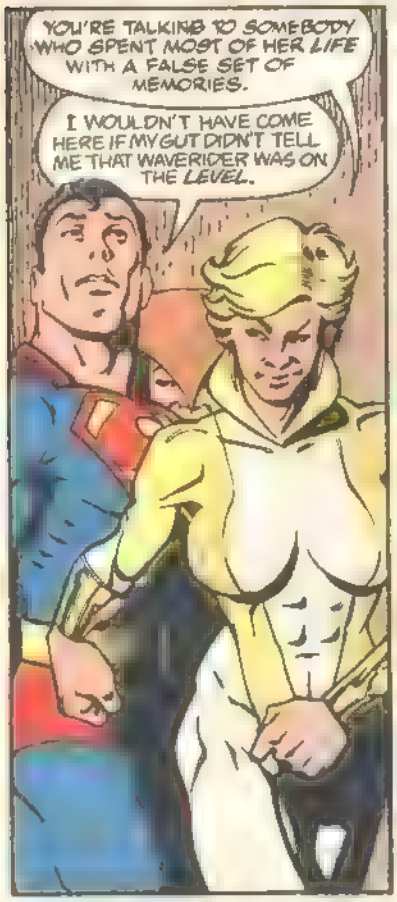

BUH-WOOK!

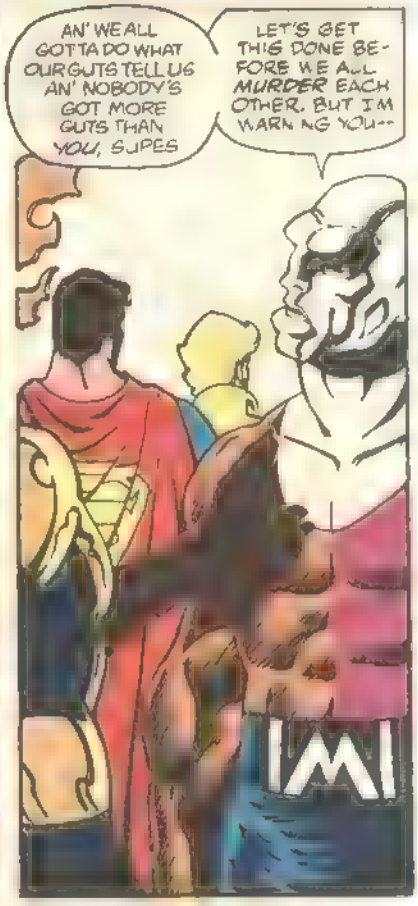
ERNIE!
LOOKS LIKE YOU'LL BE NEEDING A NEW SIDEKICK.
OH NO YOU DON'T! YOU CAN GIVE UP THAT IDEA RIGHT NOW!
MISS...
"...GENERAL GLORY NEVER GIVES UP!"


WELL?
UH... THANK YOU.

HE'S HIDING SOMETHING. I KNOW HE IS.
WELL, WE SAID WE DIDN'T WANT TO KNOW.


YOU HAVE TO TRUST THAT HIS INTENTIONS ARE GOOD AND HIS ENDS ARE IMPORTANT.
:SNORT: TRUST, HE SAYS.


YOU'RE TALKING TO SOMEBODY WHO SPENT MOST OF HER LIFE WITH A FALSE SET OF MEMORIES.
I WOULDN'T HAVE COME HERE IF MY GUT DIDN'T TELL ME THAT WAVERIDER WAS ON THE LEVEL.


AN' WE ALL GOTTA DO WHAT OUR GUTS TELL US AN' NOBODY'S GOT MORE GUTS THAN YOU, SUPES
LET'S GET THIS DONE BEFORE WE ALL MURDER EACH OTHER. BUT I'M WARNING YOU--
IMI

CONTACT.

POP!
WHAT THE--
PENCIL ART BY KEITH GIFFEN
OKAY WHAT'S THIS? NUCLEAR TESTING SITE? SOME MID-EASTERN COUNTRY THAT GOT THE OIL COMPANIES MAD AT IT?
OR YOUR BASIC POST-HOLOCAUST FUTURE?
WELL, WHATEVER THE HECK IT--
POW
KA-CHOW
GUNSHOTS?
23

WELL, I AIN'T ALONE, ANYWAY SOME COMFORT THAT IS.

KOW

BAM

PING

KA-CHOW

IF I WERE SMART I'D JUST SIT TIGHT AND DO ZIP. I MEAN, I DON'T EVEN KNOW WHO THE GOOD GUYS AND BAD GUYS ARE.

I DON'T EVEN KNOW IF THERE ARE GOOD GUYS.

THAT'S WHAT I'D DO IF I WERE SMART.

BUT...WHAT THE HECK, RIGHT? AFTER ALL, SEEMS LIKE NINE TIMES OUTTA TEN IT'S THE HERO THAT'S OUT-NUMBERED...

...UNLESS IT'S BUTCH CASSIDY AND THE SUNDANCE KID.

BUT THEY LOOKED LIKE THEY'D BE A LOT MORE FUN THAN THE BOLIVIAN ARMY, AM I RIGHT?

WEONK

NGH

LOOK OUT--!

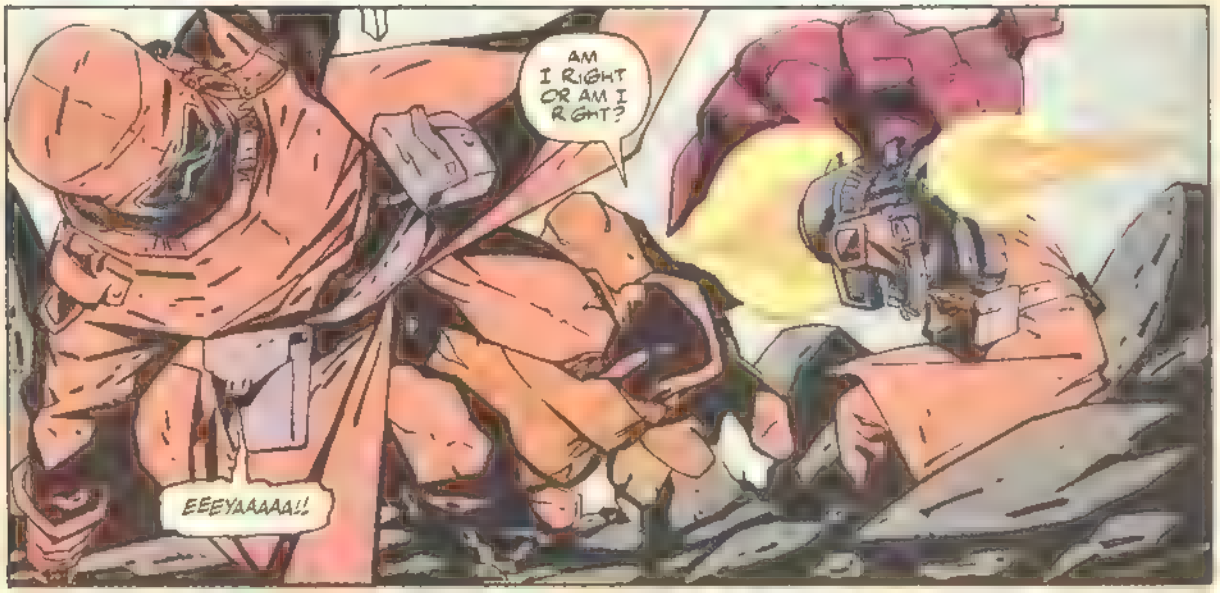
AND BESIDES, IF I RESCUE THIS GUY...

CLONK

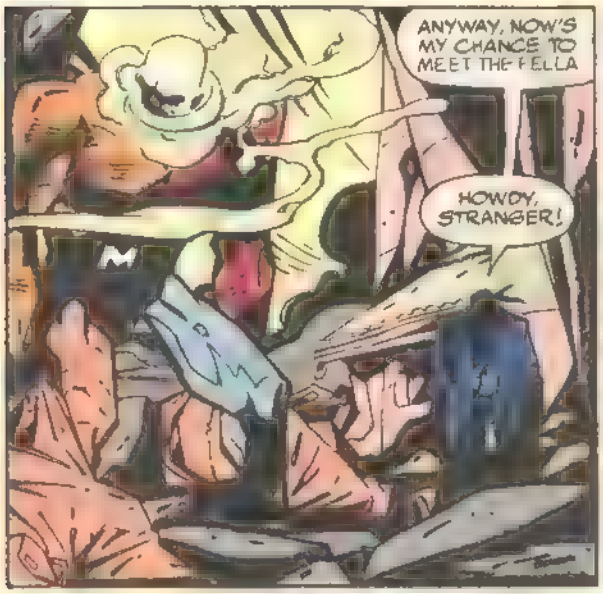
WEONK

WHOOF

...HE'LL *HAVE* TO ANSWER MY QUESTIONS OUT OF GRATITUDE.


AM I RIGHT OR AM I R GHT?
EEEYAAAAA!!

SWEET MOLLY. THAT THERE JASPER'S A REG LAR ONE MAN ARMY-- VERITABLY.
JES' GLAD HE'S THROW N' ON MY S.DE.


ANYWAY, NOW'S MY CHANCE TO MEET THE FELLA
HOWDY, STRANGER!

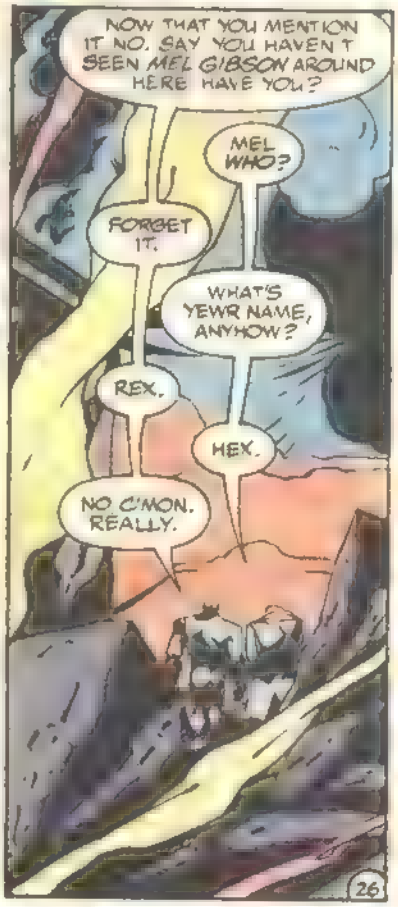
I'M OPIN N' AS HOW I OWE YEW A WORD O' THANKS
SEEIN' AS HOW THEM BUSHWHACKERS HAD ME DEAD T' RIGHTS.

YUP. I RECKON YOU DO, TOO.
NOW HOW'S ABOUT ANSWERING SOME QUESTIONS FOR ME. LIKE. WHERE THE HECK AM I?

PARD, IF YEW GOTTA ASK... THEN YEW DON'T WANNA KNOW.
SAY, Y'KNOW SOMETHIN'?

YOU'RE UGLIER THAN I AM!

YEW WANT TO GO RUSTLE UP A SHOT O' LIQUOR?
YOU FEEL LIKE DRINKING-- NOW?
YEW GOT ANYTHING BETTER T'DO?


NOW THAT YOU MENTION IT NO. SAY YOU HAVEN'T SEEN MEL GIBSON AROUND HERE HAVE YOU?
MEL WHO?
FORGET IT.
WHAT'S YEWR NAME, ANYHOW?
REX.
HEX.
NO C'MON. REALLY.

THANK YOU, WHO WILL BE NEXT?
CRAZY FRUITCAKE...
SO WHERE'S THE BIG RED S?
OUT DOING GOOD DEEDS, A PEDESTRIAN SUBWAY COLLAPSE OR A TUBE FIRE OR SOMETHING.
SO WHAT WAS IT LIKE? DO YOU REMEMBER ANYTHING?
NAW, EXCEPT FOR SOME REASON I'VE GOT A HANKERING FOR A SHOT OF CHEAP WHISKEY.
I STILL DON'T LIKE THIS GUY BUT IF SUPES SAYS HE'S OKAY... I DUNNO...
NO NEED FOR THAT, FLASH, I HAVE TOUCHED YOU ALREADY... BEFORE I EVEN CAME HERE.
WHAT?
WHEN? HEY! ANSWER ME!
CONTACT.
27

POP!
SSSSHH!
PENCIL ART BY JOHN BEATTY
INK ART BY MICHAEL GOLDEN
:HCK:
WHERE AM I?
A SWAMP OBVIOUSLY LOUISIANA PERHAPS? FLORIDA? SOME PART OF AFRICA?
PERHAPS IF I CAN SPOT SOME ANIMAL I MI@HT--
HONK!

HONK!
A SMALLER ANIMAL... A SMALLER ANIMAL!

WELL, A SPELL OF DIMINISHMENT SHOULD...
MUGGALA-HOGGA CHOOKA CHOOKA BELUGA HOOGI NUK NUK NUKKA CHOKKA-LOKKA MWOW WOW WOW!
WHAT?
BLAST IT! HE DISTRACTED ME!
SPLOSH
NOW I CAN-- WAIT!
PAHUBA NONG-NONG SHA-GOKKA BOPPITA BOPPITA THONG TOOKI-LOOKI NUNK NUNK BALCOMBA!
I CAN HANDLE THIS! HEY! GET OUT OF THE WAY OR I CAN'T--
HALO-HALO ADOBO MACAPUNA UBE CHELANDONG BOPPITA BOPPITA!
BOPPITA
BOPPITA
OH, WHY DO I BOTHER?

BOPPITA BOPPITA BOPPITA
BOPPITA BOPPITA BOPPITA
BOPPITA BOPPITA BOPPITA
MUKKA LINK NUNK?
BOPPITA BOPPITA BOPPITA
YOU SAID IT, SISTER.
31

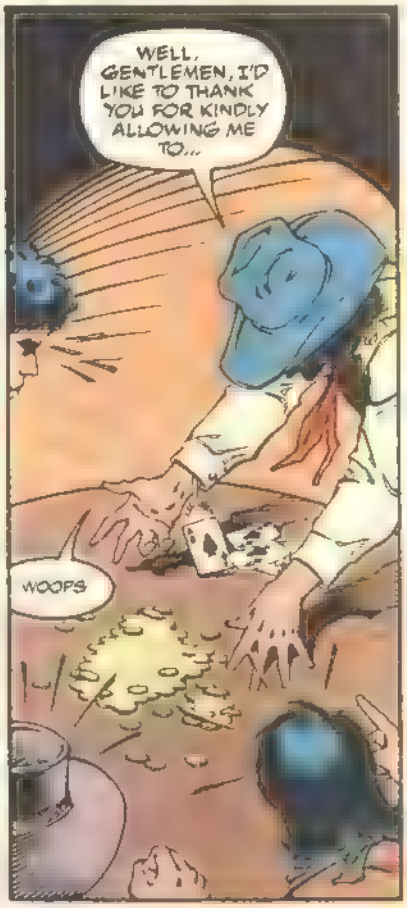
LISTEN TO ME MR MATCH-HEAD
WALLY! LIGHTEN UP!
WHO DO YOU THINK YOU ARE, SNEAKING AROUND TOUCHING DECENT PEOPLE WHEN THEY DON'T EVEN KNOW YOU'RE THERE YOU--
AH, YOU AMERICAN MEN! SO... PHOBIC YOU ARE, ABOUT TOUCHING.
HEY NOW WAIT A MINUTE! IT DEPENDS ON WHO'S DOING THE TOUCHING.
WELL, I 'AVE NO SUCH PROBLEMS. TOUCH AWAY, MONS EUR WAVERIDER.
UH... YES, CERTAINLY.
CONTACT?
30

AH'LL SEE YEW...
EYE'S
ART BY RANDY ELLIOTT

...AN' AH RA SE YUH FIFTY.
FIFTY, HUH? MM-MM. THAT'S SOME MEAN GAMBLIN' YOU'RE DOIN', PARTNER.

SO HOW'S ABOUT I SEE YOUR FIFTY, AND TOSS ON ANOTHER!
ALL RAT AH M IN. AN YEW, MAH FRIEND.. ARE BLUFFIN'!

I WISH I WERE THAT GOOD PARTNER. AS IT S I HAVE TO COUNT ON MY HAND.

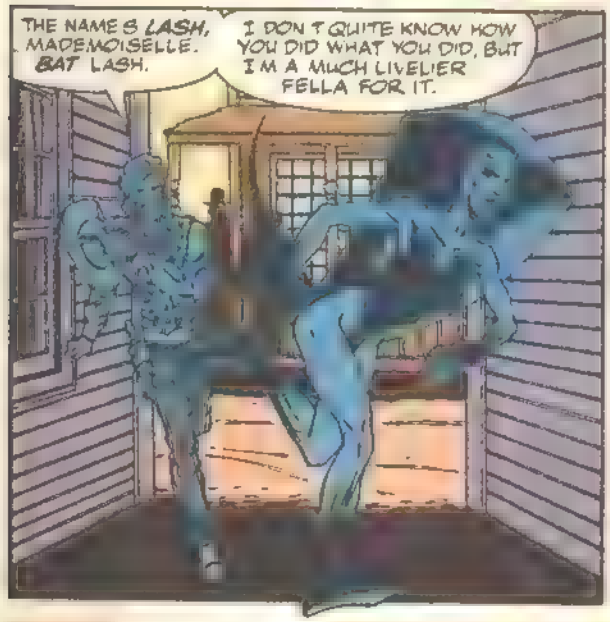

WELL, GENTLEMEN, I'D LIKE TO THANK YOU FOR KINDLY ALLOWING ME TO...
WOOPS

NOW HOW N HECK D D THAT ACE GET UP MY S.EEVE? FE..A JUST CAN T TRUST H S OWN TAILOR THESE DAYS
HEH.

POP!
OH, PARDONEZ MOI!
HEY!
MY DECK!
MY MONEY!
WILL AN APOLOGY DO, MESSIEURS?
BLAM
BLAM
KA-CHOW
KUH
APPARENTLY NOT.
34

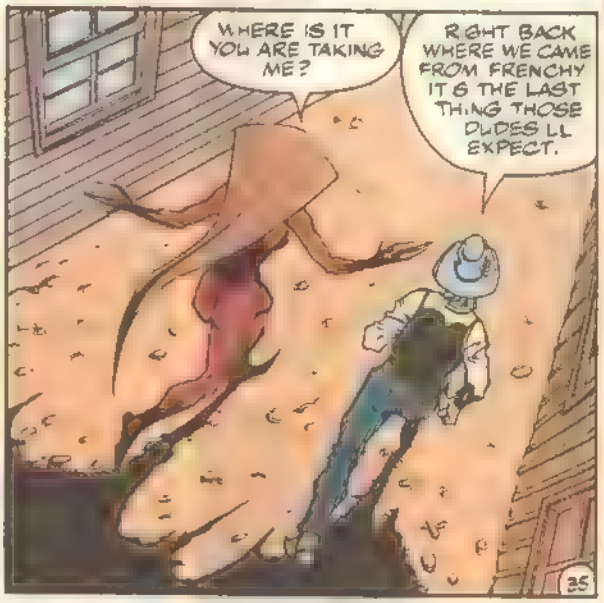
THIS WAY FRENCHY! RUN!
MAIS JE NE--

THERE! THERE'S THAT CONSARNED OWLHOOT AN HIS BRAZEN LITTLE F LLY! GIT EM!


THE NAME'S LASH, MADEMOISELLE. BAT LASH.
I DON'T QUITE KNOW HOW YOU DID WHAT YOU DID, BUT I'M A MUCH LIVELIER FELLA FOR IT.

BUT.. I DO NOT UNDERSTAND! WHERE AM I?
YOU'LL BE IN THAT EVERLASTIN' CHOIR IF YOU DON'T KEEP OUT OF SIGHT SUGAR. DUCK IN HERE!

PARDON US, MISS SALLY.
BAT LASH! WHY, I HAVEN'T SEEN YOU IN MONTHS. WHY DON'T YOU COME 'ROUND ANYMORE, HONEY?


WHERE IS IT YOU ARE TAKING ME?
RIGHT BACK WHERE WE CAME FROM FRENCHY IT'S THE LAST THING THOSE DUDES'LL EXPECT.

HMM. LOOKS LIKE THEY RE MAKING DUDES SMARTER THESE DAYS.

SAY YEWR PRAYERS YEW OILY-TONGUED SIDEWINDIN' CHEAT YEW! AN' THAT GOES FER YEWR PURTY LI'L HEIFER, TYOO!

ZEY ARE SERIOUS! ZEY INTEND TO KILL US!

'FRAID THEY DO, DARLIN'.

WELL... ZEY WILL HAVE TO BE QUICK.

BOP

KRAK

WHISSH

YEEOW!

AAIIIAGGGH!

WELL, NOW, YOU'RE THE *FASTEST* LITTLE THING I *EVER* D D SEE.

I'VE GOT A FEELING THIS IS THE BEGINNING OF A BEE-YOO-TIFUL FRIENDSHIP.

BUT FRENCHY, WE'VE JUST *GOT* TO DO SOMETHING ABOUT THOSE CLOTHES OF YOURS I WOULDN'T PUT *THAT* ON A DODGE CITY DANCIN' GIRL!

I DO NOT UNDERSTAND. WHY ARE THEY ALL IN THE PAST?
OVER SO SOON?
I MUST FIND THE TRUTH BEHIND THIS!
MY TURN, I GUESS.
THIS IS SO FRUSTRATING! SO EXTRAORDINARILY FRUSTRATING!
THINK OF THE INFORMATION HE MUST BE AMASSING! THINK OF IT! WITH HIM UNDER OUR CONTROL, WE COULD...
YES, YES, WITH HIM UNDER OUR CONTROL...
37

PENCIL ART BY CURT SWAN
ALL RIGHT THANK YOU BEETLE BOY. THE NEXT APPLICANTS FOR LEGION MEMBERSHIP WILL BE...
...INSULATION LAD...
...FAUCET GIRL...
...AND...
POP!
HUH?

GREAT SCOTT!

DID YOU SEE THAT?

NOW THAT'S A POWER!

FRIEND, IF YOU WERE LOOKING TO IMPRESS US YOU DID A DARN FINE JOB!

DARN FINE!

SAY WHAT?

A SELF-CONTAINED TELEPORTER,

THINK WHAT HE COULD DO FOR THE *ESPIONAGE SQUAD!*

HE LOOKS KIND OF *OLD*, BUT--

HECK, WELCOME TO THE *LEGION OF SUPER-HEROES!* WHAT SHOULD WE CALL YOU? *TELE-KID?*

HOW ABOUT *TRANSPORT TEEN?*

POPPING PETE?

WHOA-WHOA-WHOA--

YOU'VE GOT ME WRONG I CAN'T TELEPORT!

BUT... BUT WE JUST SAW

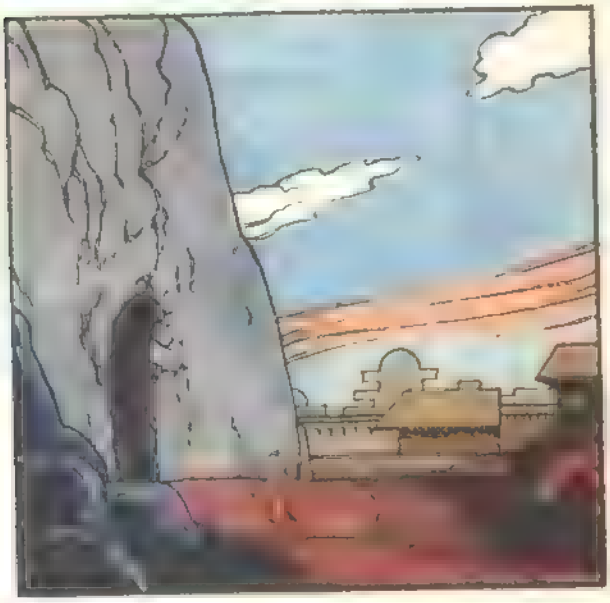
I DON'T UNDERSTAND THAT ANY MORE THAN YOU DO. I DON'T EVEN KNOW WHERE I AM.
YOU'RE IN METROPOLIS. AT AN AUDITION FOR NEW LEGION MEMBERS.
THEN YOU'RE TELLING US YOU DON'T HAVE A SUPER-POWER?
WELL, YEAH, I DO HAVE A SUPER-POWER. JUST NOT TELEPORTING. I...UH... I SHRINK AND GROW WINGS.
...SHRINKING VIOLET WITH WINGS...
ONE IS ENOUGH, IF YOU ASK...
...WORSE THAN AFRO G.R...
THANK YOU FOR YOUR INTEREST IN THE LEGION AND WE WISH YOU LUCK IN PLACING YOUR SERVICES ELSEWHERE.
NEXT...uh... INSULATION LAD!
A FLIGHT BELT?
WHAT AM I SUPPOSED TO DO WITH THIS?
40

TOUGH BREAK, HUH, KID?
YOU TALKING TO ME?

HECK YEAH, I'M TALKING TO YOU. YOU KNOW I LIKE THE CUT OF YOUR PROTO-NAVIGATIONAL POD.
MY WHA--?

AND WHO'S TO SAY THAT SHRINKING AND SPROUTING WINGS ISN'T A USEFUL POWER? WHY, WE'VE GOT A GUY WHO JUST TURNS TO ROCK!
"WE"? WHO--?
I'VE GOT A PROPOSITION FOR YOU...

THIS MEETING OF THE LEGION OF SUBSTITUTE HEROES IS NOW IN SESSION!



WELL?
WELL WHAT?

THE... FUTURE.

HE'S DOING IT AGA N!

THIS GUY'S GIVING ME THE CREEPS.

HE ALREADY GAVE ME MORE THAN I CAN HANDLE.

MIGHT THIS BE *MONARCH'S* DOING? SOME TEMPORAL DISTORTION OF MY POWERS? COULD HE ALREADY HAVE MANIFESTED? COULD--

DON'T THINK *TOO* LONG BUDDY!

IT'S *RALPH'S* TURN!

GAH!

ATTABOY RALPHIE.

GIVE 'IM A TASTE OF HIS OWN CREEPS.

NEVER THOUGHT I'D BE *GLAD* TO SEE RALPH PULLING HIS MORON ROUT NE.

DON'T I GET A BLINDFOLD?

PLEASE...

CONTACT

THE ILLUSTRATED
LONDON NEWS.
THE JOURNAL OF WEEKLY RECORD.

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A MYSTERY MAN CAPTURES LONDON'S MOST SOUGHT-AFTER MASTER OF CRIME!

THE UNIQUE AMERICAN GENTLEMAN APPEARED FROM NOWHERE.

Si mediocre dies, ut vina, poemata reddit,
scire velim, chartis pretium quotus arroget annus.
scriptor abhinc annos centum qui decidit, inter
perfectos veteresque referri debet an inter vilis atque novos? Excludat
iurgia finis. "Est vetus atque probus centum qui perficit annos." Quid, qui
deperit minor uno mense vel anno, inter quos referendus erit? Veteresne inter poetas, an quos et praesens et postera respuat aetas?

Iste quidem veteres inter ponetur honeste,
qui vel mense brevi vel toto est iunior anno.
Utor permisso, caudaeque pilos ut equinae
paulatim vello unum, demo etiam unum,
dum cadat elusus ratione ruentis acervi,
qui redit in fastos et virtutem aestimat annis
miraturque nihil nisi quod Libitina sacravit.

Ennius et sapiens et fortis et alter Homerus,
ut critici dicunt, leviter curare videtur,
quo promissa cadant et somnia Pythagorea.
Naevius in manibus non est et mentibus haeret
paene recens? Adeo sanctum est vetus omne poema.
ambigitur quotiens, uter utro sit prior, aufert
Pacuvius docti famam senis Accius alti,
dicitur Afrani toga convenisse Menandro,
Plautus ad exemplar Siculi properare Epicharmi,
vincere Caecilius gravitate, Terentius arte.
Hos cecinit tollitque hominum ex ore poetas
antiquum Romana tenens per saecula nomen,
cum numero Camenae
[illegible]
Non equidem insector delendave carmina Livi
esse reor, memini quae plagosum mihi parvo
Orbilium dictare; sed emendata videri
pulchraque et exactis minimum distantia miror.
Inter quae verbum emicuit si forte decorum,
et si versus paulo concinnior unus et alter,
iniquum ducit reprehendere totum,
quandoque [illegible]
[illegible]
Ut vina, poemata reddit, scire velim, chartis
pretium quotus arroget annus, scriptor
abhinc annos centum qui decidit, inter
perfectos veteresque referri debet an inter
vilis atque novos? Excludat iurgia finis.
"Est vetus atque probus, centum qui perficit annos."
Quid, qui deperit minor uno mense vel anno,
inter quos referendus erit? Veteresne inter poetas,
an quos et praesens et postera respuat aetas?

Iste quidem veteres inter ponetur honeste,
qui vel mense brevi vel toto est iunior anno.
Utor permisso, caudaeque pilos ut equinae
paulatim vello unum, demo etiam unum,
dum cadat elusus ratione ruentis acervi,
qui redit in fastos et virtutem aestimat annis
miraturque nihil nisi quod Libitina sacravit.

HE IS SAID TO HAVE A BODY OF TAFFY.

Si mediocre dies, ut vina, poemata reddit,
scire velim, chartis pretium quotus arroget annus.
scriptor abhinc annos centum qui decidit, inter
perfectos veteresque referri debet an inter vilis atque novos? Excludat
iurgia finis. "Est vetus atque probus centum qui perficit annos." Quid, qui
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dum cadat elusus ratione ruentis acervi,
qui redit in fastos et virtutem aestimat annis
miraturque nihil nisi quod Libitina sacravit.

Ennius et sapiens et fortis et alter Homerus,
ut critici dicunt, leviter curare videtur,
quo promissa cadant et somnia Pythagorea.
Naevius in manibus non est et mentibus haeret
paene recens? Adeo sanctum est vetus omne poema.
ambigitur quotiens, uter utro sit prior, aufert
Pacuvius docti famam senis Accius alti,
dicitur Afrani toga convenisse Menandro,
Plautus ad exemplar Siculi properare Epicharmi,
vincere Caecilius gravitate, Terentius arte.
Hos cecinit tollitque hominum ex ore poetas
antiquum Romana tenens per saecula nomen,
cum numero Camenae
[illegible]
Non equidem insector delendave carmina Livi
esse reor, memini quae plagosum mihi parvo
Orbilium dictare; sed emendata videri
pulchraque et exactis minimum distantia miror.
Inter quae verbum emicuit si forte decorum,
et si versus paulo concinnior unus et alter,
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quandoque [illegible]
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Ut vina, poemata reddit, scire velim, chartis
pretium quotus arroget annus, scriptor
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an quos et praesens et postera respuat aetas?

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qui vel mense brevi vel toto est iunior anno.
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dum cadat elusus ratione ruentis acervi,
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"Iste quidem veteres inter ponetur honeste, qui vel mense brevi vel toto est iunior anno." Utor permisso, caudaeque pilos ut equinae paulatim vello unum, demo etiam unum, dum cadat elusus ratione ruentis acervi, qui redit in fastos et virtutem aestimat annis miraturque nihil nisi quod Libitina sacravit.

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Hos cecinit tollitque hominum ex ore poetas antiquum Romana tenens per saecula nomen, cum numero Camenae [illegible] Non equidem insector delendave carmina Livi esse reor, memini quae plagosum mihi parvo Orbilium dictare; sed emendata videri pulchraque et exactis minimum distantia miror. Inter quae verbum emicuit si forte decorum, et si versus paulo concinnior unus et alter, iniquum ducit reprehendere totum, quandoque [illegible] [illegible]

Ut vina, poemata reddit, scire velim, chartis pretium quotus arroget annus, scriptor abhinc annos centum qui decidit, inter perfectos veteresque referri debet an inter vilis atque novos? Excludat iurgia finis. "Est vetus atque probus, centum qui perficit annos." Quid, qui deperit minor uno mense vel anno, inter quos referendus erit? Veteresne inter poetas, an quos et praesens et postera respuat aetas?

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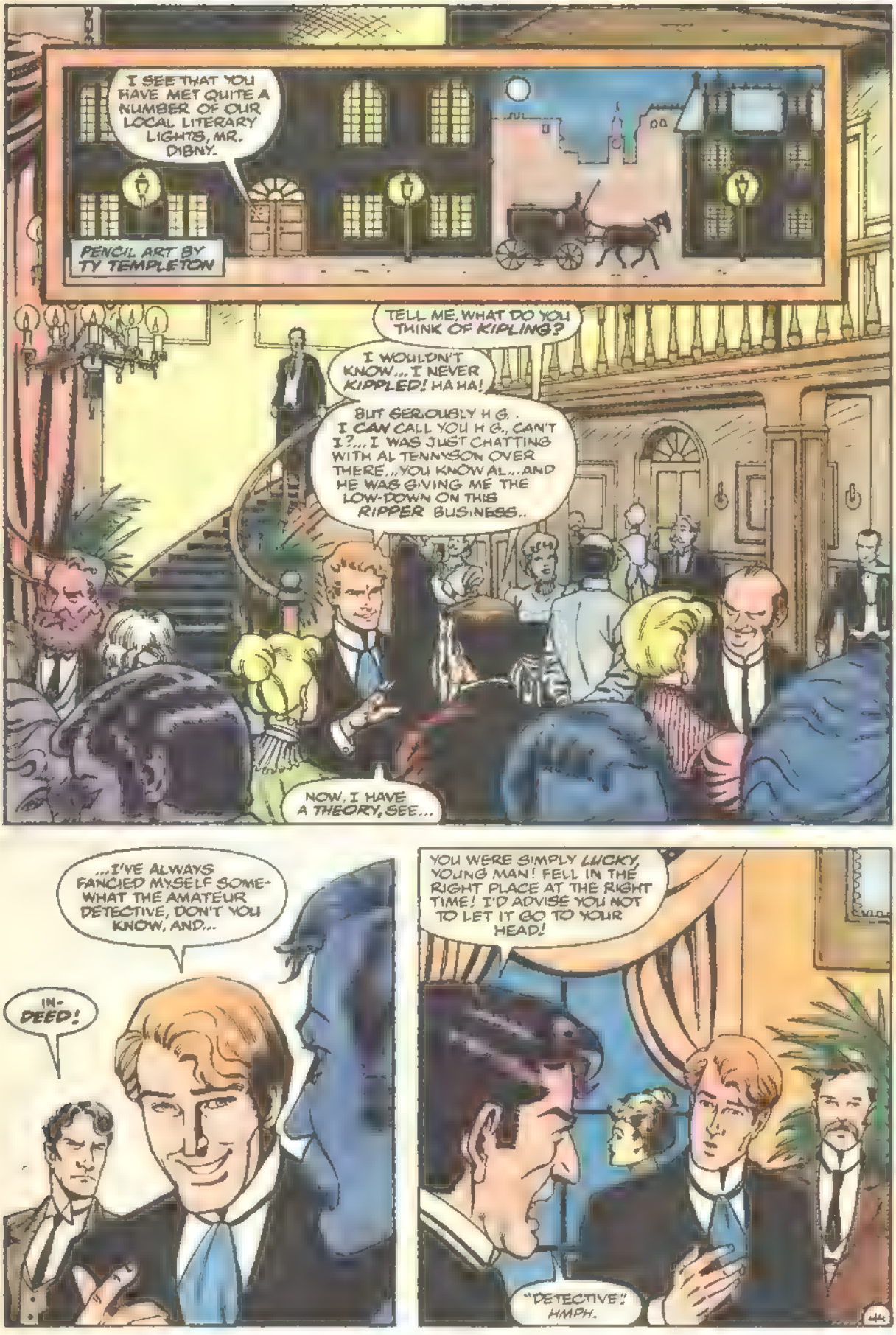
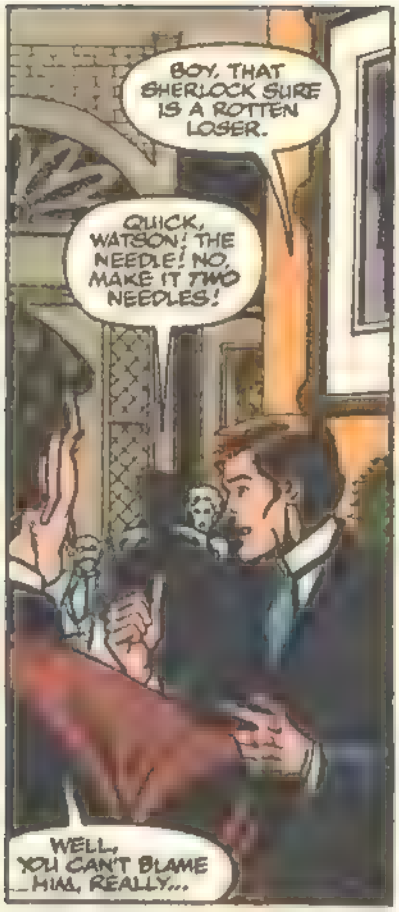
SAID GENTLEMAN IS TO BE FETED TO NIGHT BY THE KINGDOM'S SOCIAL ELITE.

des aulla movet. Inter quae verbum emicuit si forte decorum, et si versus paulo concinnior unus et alter, iniquum ducit reprehendere totum, quandoque [illegible]
[illegible]
Ut vina, poemata reddit, scire velim, chartis pretium quotus arroget annus, scriptor abhinc annos centum qui decidit, inter perfectos veteresque referri debet an inter vilis atque novos? Excludat iurgia finis. "Est vetus atque probus, centum qui perficit annos." Quid, qui deperit minor uno mense vel anno, inter quos referendus erit? Veteresne inter poetas, an quos et praesens et postera respuat aetas?

"Iste quidem veteres inter ponetur honeste, qui vel mense brevi vel toto est iunior anno." Utor permisso, caudaeque pilos ut equinae paulatim vello unum, demo etiam unum, dum cadat elusus ratione ruentis acervi, qui redit in fastos et virtutem aestimat annis miraturque nihil nisi quod Libitina sacravit.

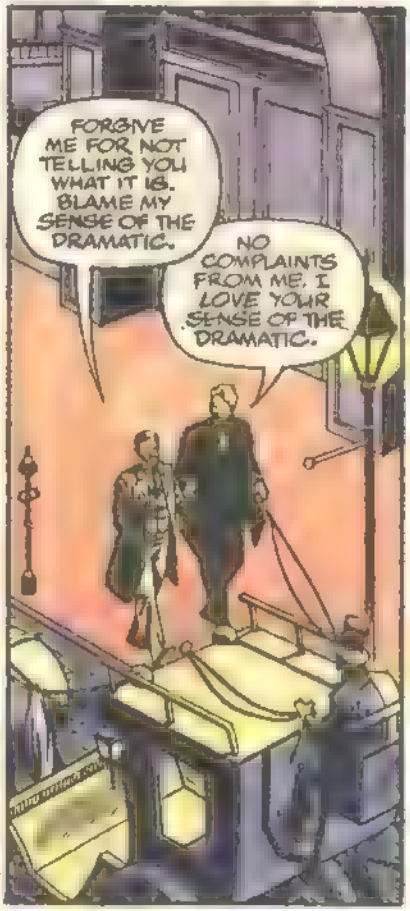

I SEE THAT YOU HAVE MET QUITE A NUMBER OF OUR LOCAL LITERARY LIGHTS, MR. DIBNY.
PENCIL ART BY TY TEMPLETON
TELL ME, WHAT DO YOU THINK OF KIPLING?
I WOULDN'T KNOW... I NEVER KIPPLED! HA HA!
BUT SERIOUSLY H G., I CAN CALL YOU H G., CAN'T I?... I WAS JUST CHATTING WITH AL TENNYSON OVER THERE... YOU KNOW AL... AND HE WAS GIVING ME THE LOW-DOWN ON THIS RIPPER BUSINESS..
NOW, I HAVE A THEORY, SEE...
...I'VE ALWAYS FANCIED MYSELF SOMEWHAT THE AMATEUR DETECTIVE, DON'T YOU KNOW, AND...
INDEED!
YOU WERE SIMPLY LUCKY, YOUNG MAN! FELL IN THE RIGHT PLACE AT THE RIGHT TIME! I'D ADVISE YOU NOT TO LET IT GO TO YOUR HEAD!
"DETECTIVE"! HMPH.
44


BOY, THAT SHERLOCK SURE IS A ROTTEN LOSER.
QUICK, WATSON! THE NEEDLE! NO, MAKE IT TWO NEEDLES!
WELL, YOU CAN'T BLAME HIM, REALLY...

...AFTER ALL, HE'D BEEN CHASING AFTER MORIARTY FOR YEARS.
NOW THEN, MR. D'BNY, IF I MAY SPEAK OF SOMETHING MORE DELICATE. I THOUGHT THAT, GIVEN YOUR... UNUSUAL TALENTS... YOU MIGHT BE INTERESTED IN THE RATHER... OUTRÉ.

YOU SEE, I'M SOMETHING OF AN AMATEUR INVENTOR, IN ADDITION TO MY WRITINGS AND MY STUDIES IN HISTORY, AND, WELL... I'VE A PET PROJECT...
OH?

I THOUGHT THAT IF YOU'D CARE TO SEE IT...
WOULD I? WITH A BUILD-UP LIKE THAT I CAN BARELY KEEP MY NOSE FROM TWITCHING! LEAD ON, H.G.!


FORGIVE ME FOR NOT TELLING YOU WHAT IT IS. BLAME MY SENSE OF THE DRAMATIC.
NO COMPLAINTS FROM ME. I LOVE YOUR SENSE OF THE DRAMATIC.

I'M CRAZY ABOUT "WAR OF THE WORLDS."
WAR OF THE WHAT?
OOPS. SORRY. SKIP IT.

INTRIGUING PHRASE, THAT. MIGHT MAKE A NICE TITLE. BUT THE ALLITERATION SEEMS A BIT FORCED. DON'T YOU THINK? I BELIEVE I'D PREFER, "COMBAT OF THE PLANETS."

WHATEVER YOU SAY, H.G. SAY, IT SEEMS LIKE YOU COULD USE A LITTLE MORE SECURITY IN THIS LAB OF YOURS. YOU OUGHT TO PUT IN SOME *MORE LOCKS.*

GET IT? "MOR-LOCKS"?

WELL, FRANKLY, I DOUBT THAT ANY COMMON THIEF WOULD RECOGNIZE MY LITTLE PROJECT AS OF ANY SIGNIFICANCE. EVEN THE SCIENTIFIC ELITE...

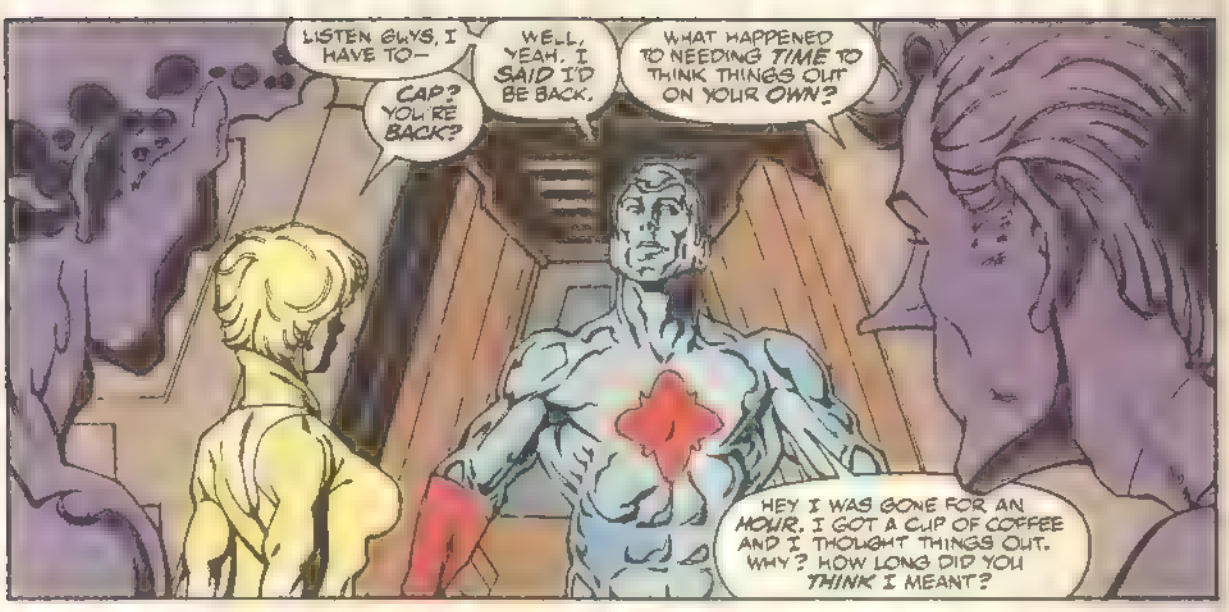
UH-HUH. GUESS YOU HAVEN'T WRITTEN *THAT* ONE YET, EITHER.

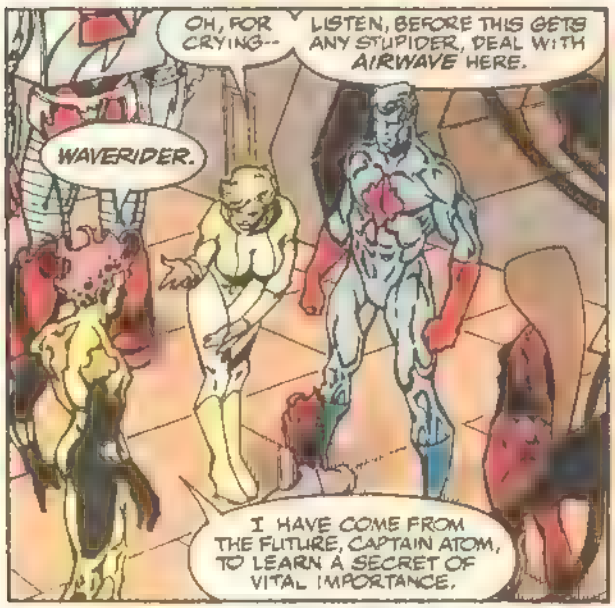
MY LITERARY REFERENCES ARE ALWAYS WASTED.

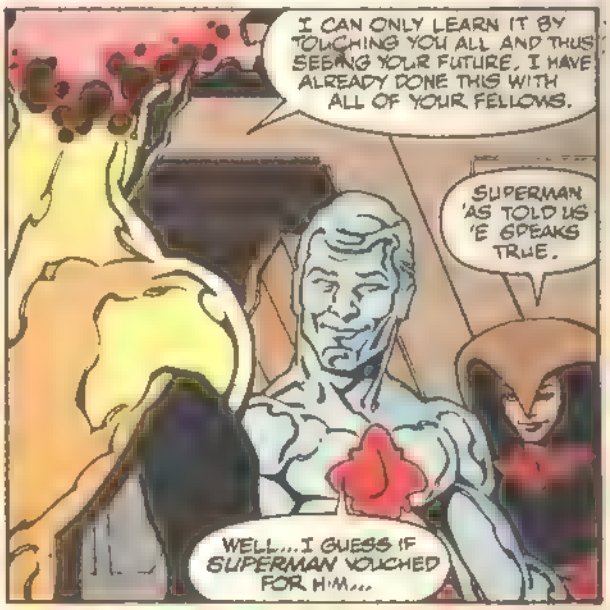
THERE MR. DIBNY. *THERE* IS MY LATEST PROJECT

SAY, H.G. .. YOU DON'T NEED AN *ASSISTANT,* DO YOU?

WHAT I HOPE WILL BE A FULLY FUNCTIONAL *TIME MACHINE!*


LISTEN GUYS, I HAVE TO—
CAP? YOU'RE BACK?
WELL, YEAH. I SAID I'D BE BACK.
WHAT HAPPENED TO NEEDING TIME TO THINK THINGS OUT ON YOUR OWN?
HEY I WAS GONE FOR AN HOUR. I GOT A CUP OF COFFEE AND I THOUGHT THINGS OUT. WHY? HOW LONG DID YOU THINK I MEANT?


OH, FOR CRYING--
LISTEN, BEFORE THIS GETS ANY STUPIDER, DEAL WITH AIRWAVE HERE.
WAVERIDER.
I HAVE COME FROM THE FUTURE, CAPTAIN ATOM, TO LEARN A SECRET OF VITAL IMPORTANCE.


I CAN ONLY LEARN IT BY TOUCHING YOU ALL AND THUS SEEING YOUR FUTURE. I HAVE ALREADY DONE THIS WITH ALL OF YOUR FELLOWS.
SUPERMAN 'AS TOLD US 'E SPEAKS TRUE.
WELL... I GUESS IF SUPERMAN VOUCHED FOR HIM...

THANK YOU CAPTAIN. NOW..

EH?
purr purr
47

HFF
HFF
MWR?
PRRRR
CAREFUL.
RR?
OKAY. SECURITY BYPASSED. WE'RE IN.
SHH.
WHERE DYA TH NK IT IS?
LET'S TRY THIS WAY.
BI- PERSONNEL INTER- GLOBAL INTER FACING COMMUNICATION DEVICE
ACKK! THERE IT IS!
RELAX-- IT WON'T RECOGNIZE US AFTER ALL THIS TIME.*
BLIMEY, IT'S GOTTEN FAT.
HEY, FAT CAT!
?
BACK IN JLE #22
48

AND THERE IS MITCH WACKY'S TIME-MACHINE... JUST AS THE CAT'S IMPLANT SHOWED IT TO US!

GLORIOUS! SIMPLY GLORIOUS! AFTER TEN YEARS OF WATCHING THE JUSTICE LEAGUE THROUGH THAT FOUL LITTLE BEAST'S EYE!

THIS MAKES IT ALL WORTHWHILE! OH, WHAT WE CAN DO WITH A *TIME MACHINE!*

WE CAN SELL INFORMATION ON THINGS THAT HAVEN'T EVEN *HAPPENED* YET! WE CAN MAKE A *FORTUNE* JUST BETTING ON *FOOTBALL MATCHES!*

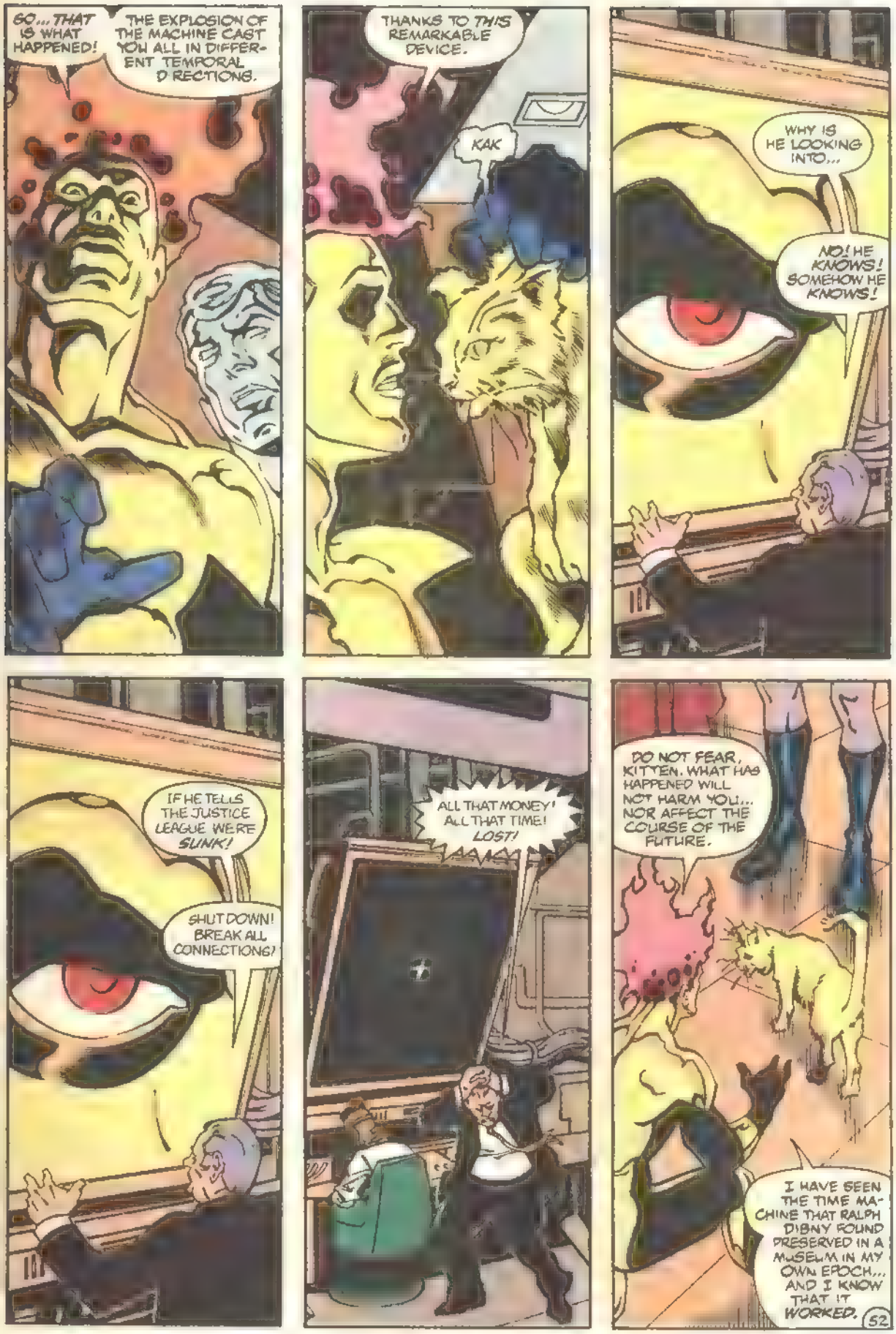
THANKS FOR LIVING THIS LONG, PUSS-PUSS!

DOWN TO BUSINESS, NOW! MAKE SURE YOU PHOTOGRAPH EVERY LAST CIRCUIT!

DON'T WORRY SIR, NOTHING CAN STOP US NOW.

COR! ROBIN IT'S ON TA ME!
SPIT GROWL SPIT
HOLD STILL, JOHNNY: I'LL STOMP THE BUGGER!
YAAA!
STOP HIM!!
YEOW! ME FOOT!
GRRROWR
HWRRRR
PAW
JOHNNY-- BEAN THE BLIGHTER!
NOT ME-- I'M OUTTA HERE!
HSSS
SPIT
MWRR
JOHN--
AHEE
MWRR
HSST
SPIT
YAH!
NO-- NO-- IT'S THE DEVIL, IT IS!
50

OUT OF THE WAY! I'VE GOT HIM NOW! HA HA. I'LL SHOW HIM!
NO! YOU LOON! THE TIME--
I SHOULDA DONE THIS WHEN WE NIPPED HIM TEN YEARS AGO!
BLAMM
WHOOMP!


SO... THAT IS WHAT HAPPENED!
THE EXPLOSION OF THE MACHINE CAST YOU ALL IN DIFFERENT TEMPORAL DIRECTIONS.
THANKS TO THIS REMARKABLE DEVICE.
KAK
WHY IS HE LOOKING INTO...
NO! HE KNOWS! SOMEHOW HE KNOWS!
IF HE TELLS THE JUSTICE LEAGUE WE'RE SUNK!
SHUT DOWN! BREAK ALL CONNECTIONS!
ALL THAT MONEY! ALL THAT TIME! LOST!
DO NOT FEAR, KITTEN. WHAT HAS HAPPENED WILL NOT HARM YOU... NOR AFFECT THE COURSE OF THE FUTURE.
I HAVE SEEN THE TIME MACHINE THAT RALPH DIBNY FOUND PRESERVED IN A MUSEUM IN MY OWN EPOCH... AND I KNOW THAT IT WORKED.
52

MAKING IT A RELATIVELY SIMPLE MATTER FOR YOU TO SEARCH FOR THE APPROPRIATE LEGENDS AND ANOMALIES IN HISTORY AND THUS TRACK DOWN AND RETRIEVE YOUR FRIENDS... EH, RALPH?

WHAT ARE YOU *TALKING* ABOUT?

NEVER MIND. LET US SIMPLY SAY THAT I HAVE CLOSED OFF AN UNPRODUCTIVE LOOP OF HISTORY..

...AND SPARED YOU ALL SOME DIFFICULTY.

HEY THANKS A LOT. FOR *WHAT*, I DUNNO. BUT THANKS A WHOLE BUNCH.

UH... SHALL WE PROCEED?

YES, YES. OF COURSE. STAND STILL, CAPTAIN...

...AND LET ME SEE...

...WHAT LIES AHEAD FOR *YOU*.

TO BE CONCLUDED IN ARMAGEDDON 2001 #2 — ON SALE SOON!

HIS NAME IS MATTHEW RYDER A.K.A. WAVERIDER.
HE HAS COME FROM THE FUTURE TO TO PREVENT THAT FUTURE FROM EVER HAPPENING -- TO FORESTALL A WORLD OF CRUELTY AND OPPRESSION.
HE KNOWS THAT ONE OF THE TWENTIETH CENTURY'S GREAT HEROES WILL BE THE INSTRUMENT OF THAT CRUELTY, THAT OPPRESSION.
AND HE BELIEVES HE HAS NARROWED THE CHOICES TO ONE.
CAPTAIN ATOM -- POTENTIALLY THE MOST POWERFUL MAN ALIVE.
POTENTIALLY, THE MOST ABSOLUTE TYRANT --
WHAT ARE YOU DOING?
TOUCHING YOU.

DENNIS O'NEIL . DAN JURGENS . ART THIBERT · STEVE MITCHELL · DICK GIORDANO - inkers
script pencils

JOHN COSTANZA · ADRIENNE ROY · JONATHAN PETERSON
letterer colorist editor

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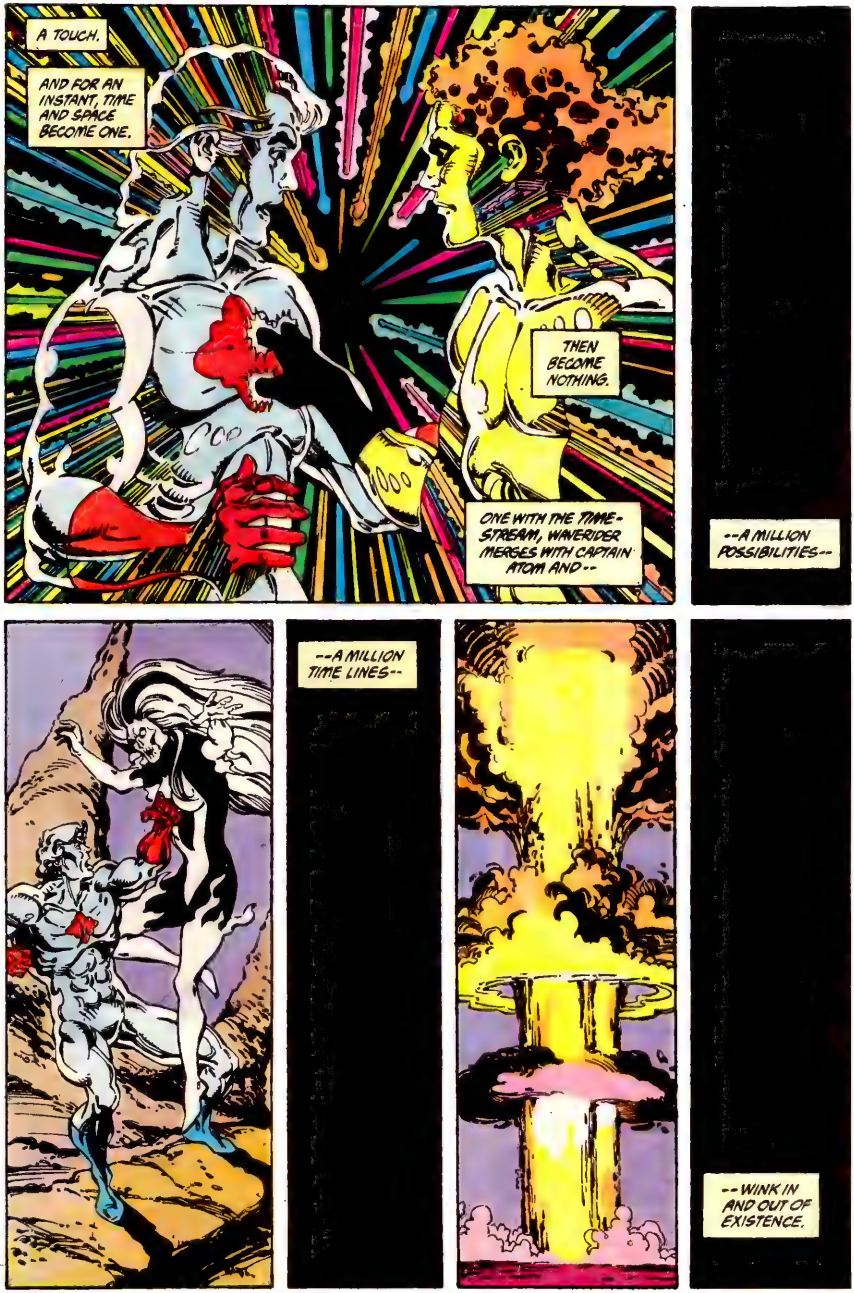
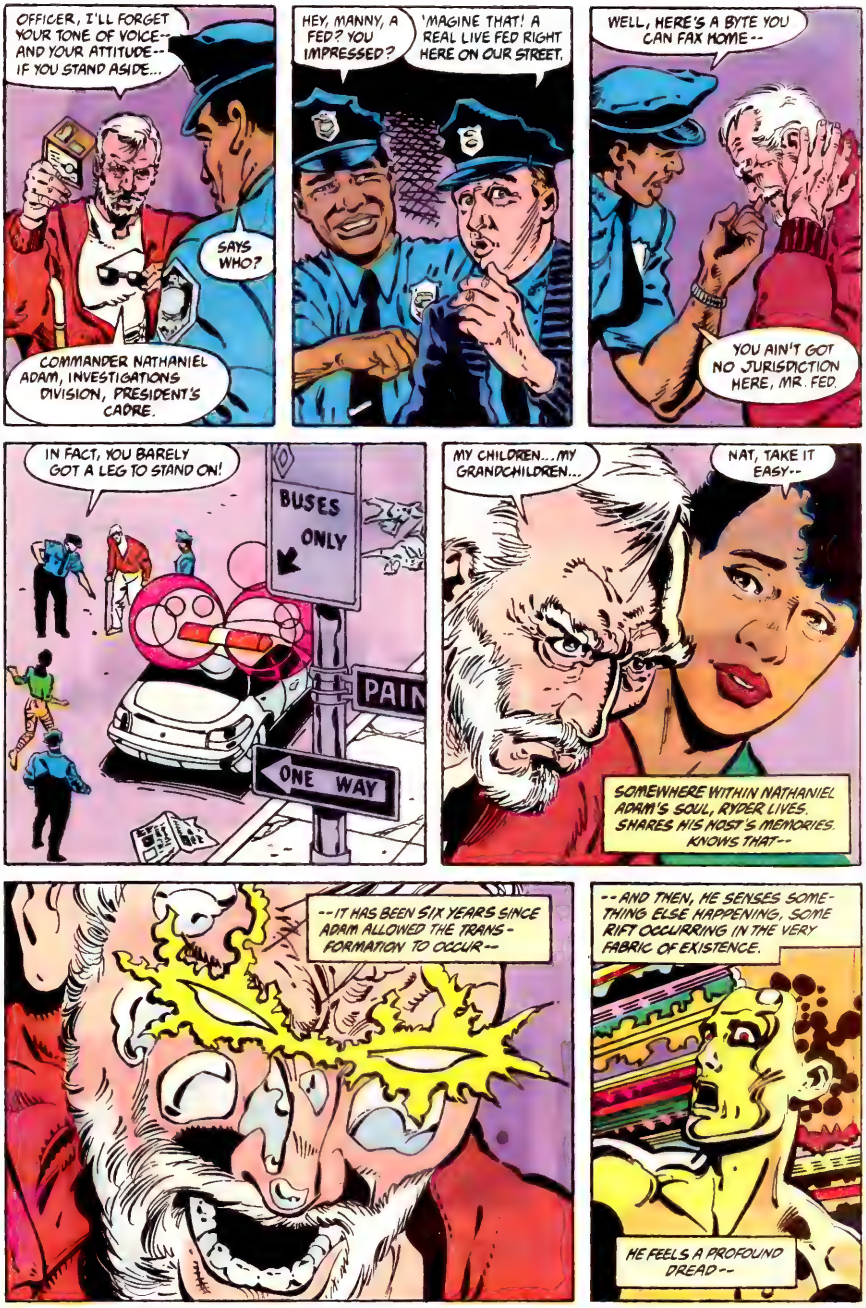
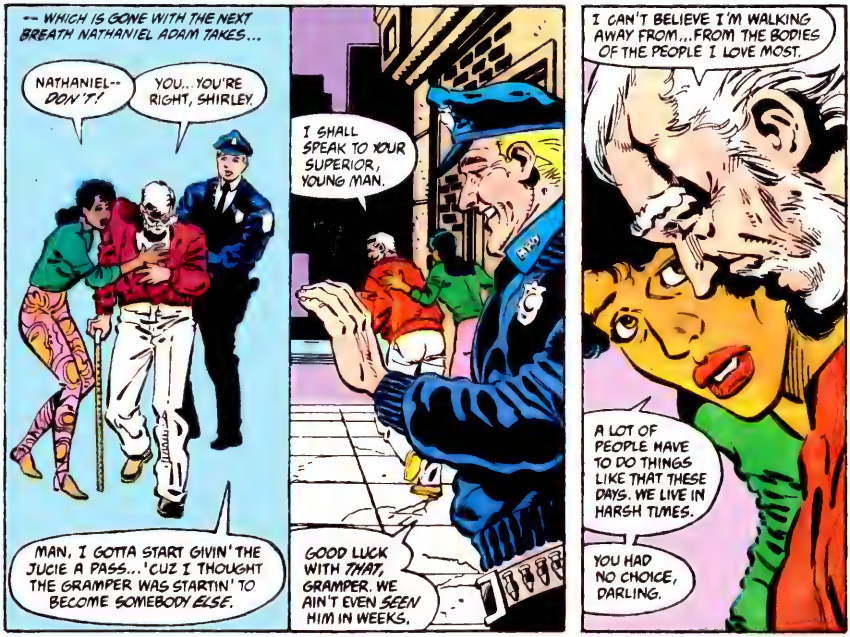
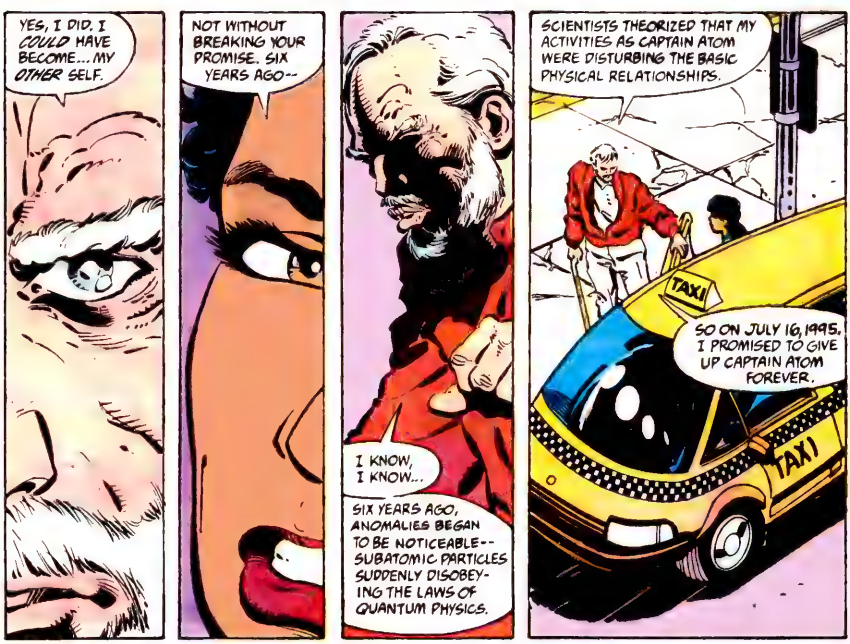

A TOUCH.
AND FOR AN INSTANT, TIME AND SPACE BECOME ONE.
THEN BECOME NOTHING.
ONE WITH THE TIME-STREAM, WAVERIDER MERGES WITH CAPTAIN ATOM AND--
--A MILLION POSSIBILITIES--
--A MILLION TIME LINES--
--WINK IN AND OUT OF EXISTENCE.

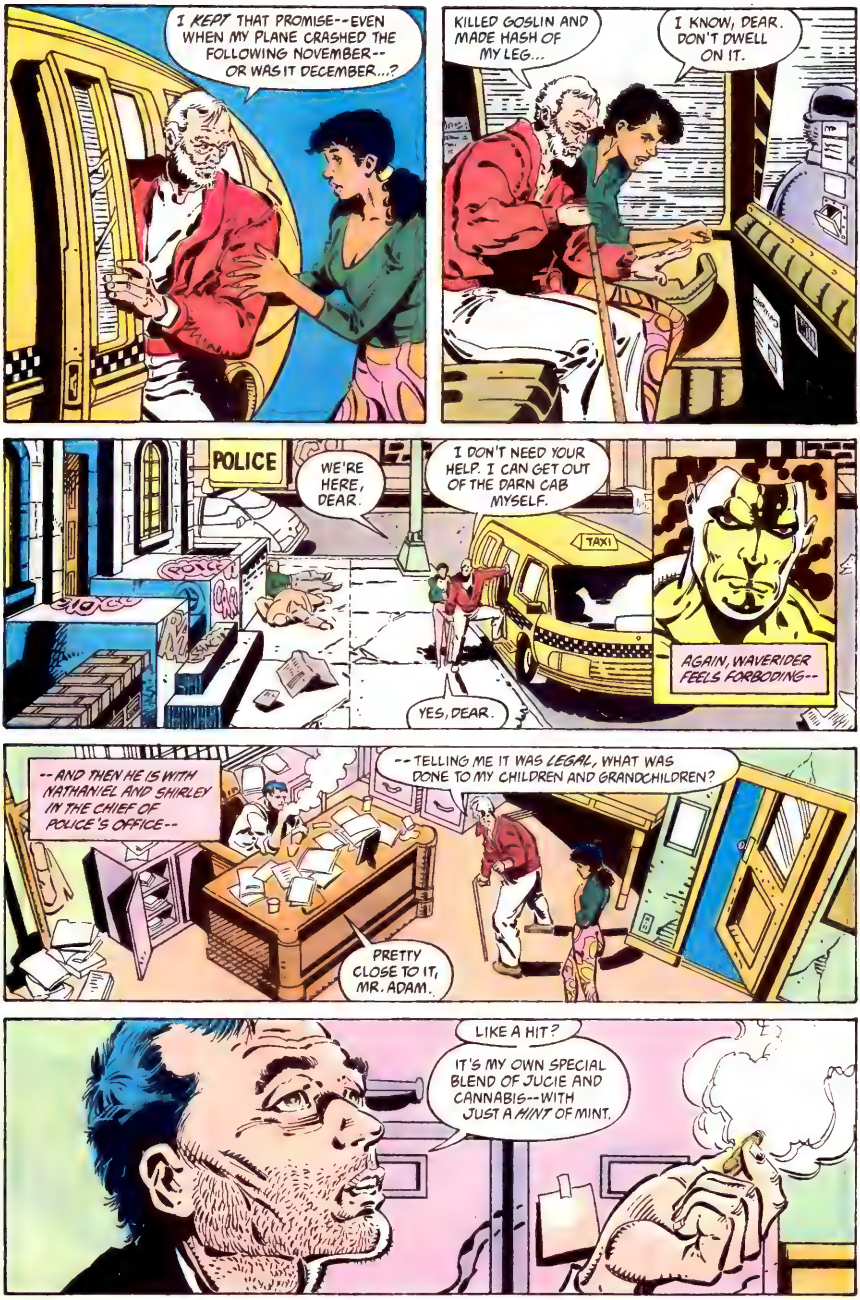
--UNTIL ONE--
-- SEEMS TO SNAG REALITY--
--TO BECOME WHAT MIGHT HAPPEN IN THE YEAR 2001...
DID YOU HEAR THAT, NAT?
SOUNDED LIKE GUNFIRE.

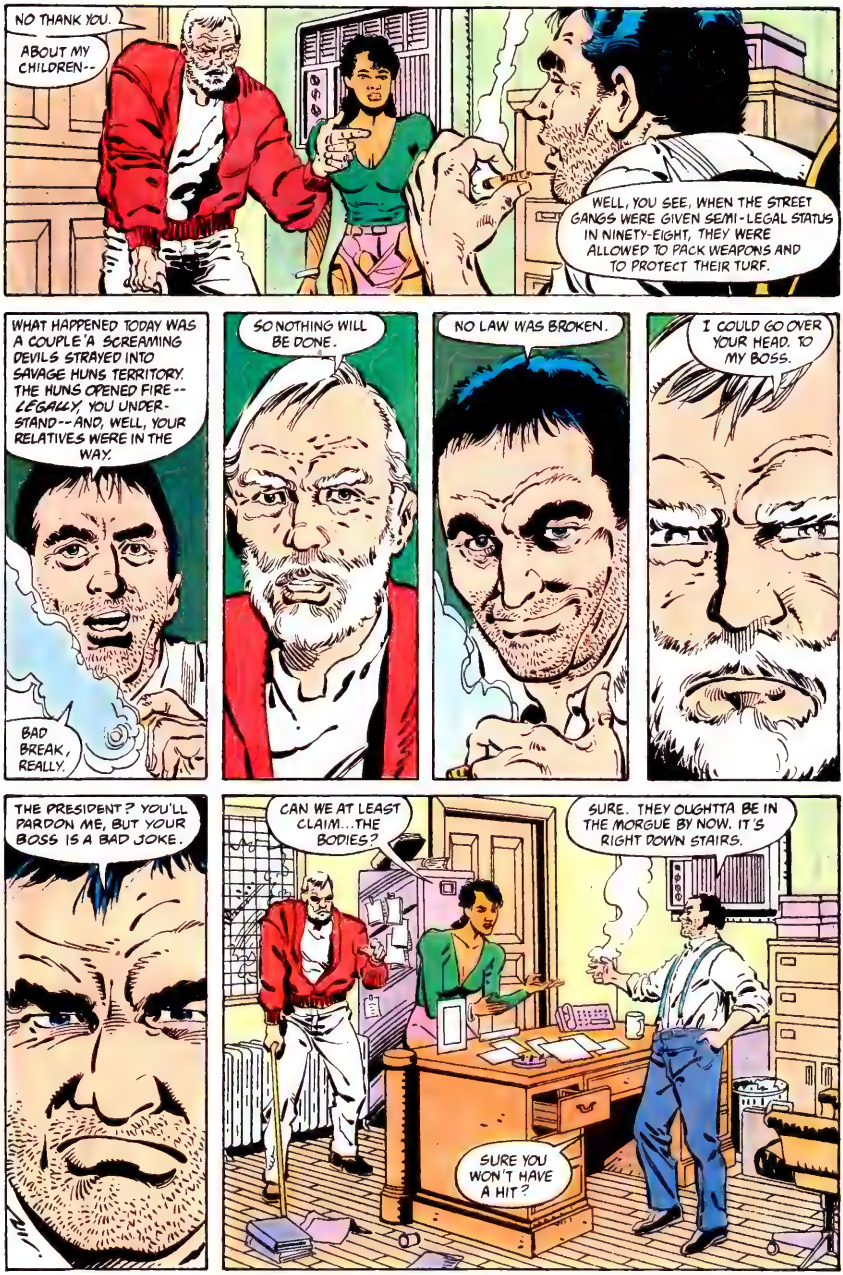
IT CAME FROM THE NEXT BLOCK. THAT'S WHERE WE'RE SUPPOSED TO MEET THE CHILDREN!
NAT, DON'T RUN. YOUR LEG--
SOMETHING'S WRONG.
OH NO. NO... NO--!
NO!
WHOA THERE, POPS WHERE YOU THINK YOU'RE HEADED?
THOSE PEOPLE...
THEY'RE MY CHILDREN AND MY GRANDCHILDREN--
WELL, YOU DON'T HAVETA SEE 'EM NOW.
THEY AIN'T GOIN' NOWHERE AND YOU CAN FAX THAT TO YOUR MAMMY.

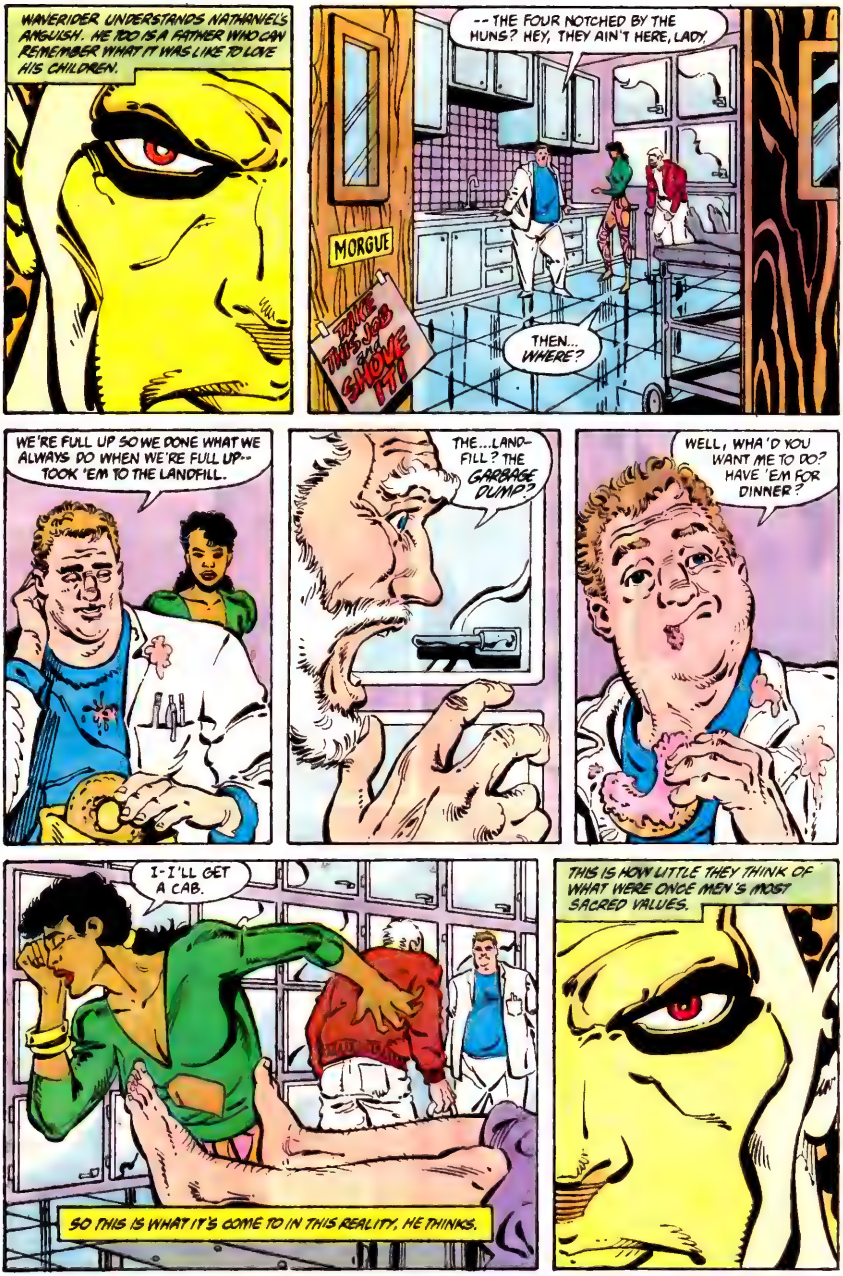

OFFICER, I'LL FORGET YOUR TONE OF VOICE-- AND YOUR ATTITUDE-- IF YOU STAND ASIDE...
SAYS WHO?
COMMANDER NATHANIEL ADAM, INVESTIGATIONS DIVISION, PRESIDENT'S CADRE.
HEY, MANNY, A FED? YOU IMPRESSED?
'MAGINE THAT! A REAL LIVE FED RIGHT HERE ON OUR STREET.
WELL, HERE'S A BYTE YOU CAN FAX HOME--
YOU AIN'T GOT NO JURISDICTION HERE, MR. FED.
IN FACT, YOU BARELY GOT A LEG TO STAND ON!
BUSES ONLY
ONE WAY
MY CHILDREN... MY GRANDCHILDREN...
NAT, TAKE IT EASY--
SOMEWHERE WITHIN NATHANIEL ADAM'S SOUL, RYDER LIVES. SHARES HIS HOST'S MEMORIES. KNOWS THAT--
--IT HAS BEEN SIX YEARS SINCE ADAM ALLOWED THE TRANS-FORMATION TO OCCUR--
--AND THEN, HE SENSES SOME-THING ELSE HAPPENING, SOME RIFT OCCURRING IN THE VERY FABRIC OF EXISTENCE.
HE FEELS A PROFOUND DREAD--


-- WHICH IS GONE WITH THE NEXT BREATH NATHANIEL ADAM TAKES...
NATHANIEL-- DON'T!
YOU... YOU'RE RIGHT, SHIRLEY.
MAN, I GOTTA START GIVIN' THE JUCIE A PASS... 'CUZ I THOUGHT THE GRAMPER WAS STARTIN' TO BECOME SOMEBODY ELSE.
I SHALL SPEAK TO YOUR SUPERIOR, YOUNG MAN.
GOOD LUCK WITH THAT, GRAMPER. WE AIN'T EVEN SEEN HIM IN WEEKS.
I CAN'T BELIEVE I'M WALKING AWAY FROM... FROM THE BODIES OF THE PEOPLE I LOVE MOST.
A LOT OF PEOPLE HAVE TO DO THINGS LIKE THAT THESE DAYS. WE LIVE IN HARSH TIMES.
YOU HAD NO CHOICE, DARLING.


YES, I DID. I COULD HAVE BECOME... MY OTHER SELF.
NOT WITHOUT BREAKING YOUR PROMISE. SIX YEARS AGO--
I KNOW, I KNOW...
SIX YEARS AGO, ANOMALIES BEGAN TO BE NOTICEABLE-- SUBATOMIC PARTICLES SUDDENLY DISOBEYING THE LAWS OF QUANTUM PHYSICS.
SCIENTISTS THEORIZED THAT MY ACTIVITIES AS CAPTAIN ATOM WERE DISTURBING THE BASIC PHYSICAL RELATIONSHIPS.
SO ON JULY 16, 1995, I PROMISED TO GIVE UP CAPTAIN ATOM FOREVER.
TAXI
TAXI

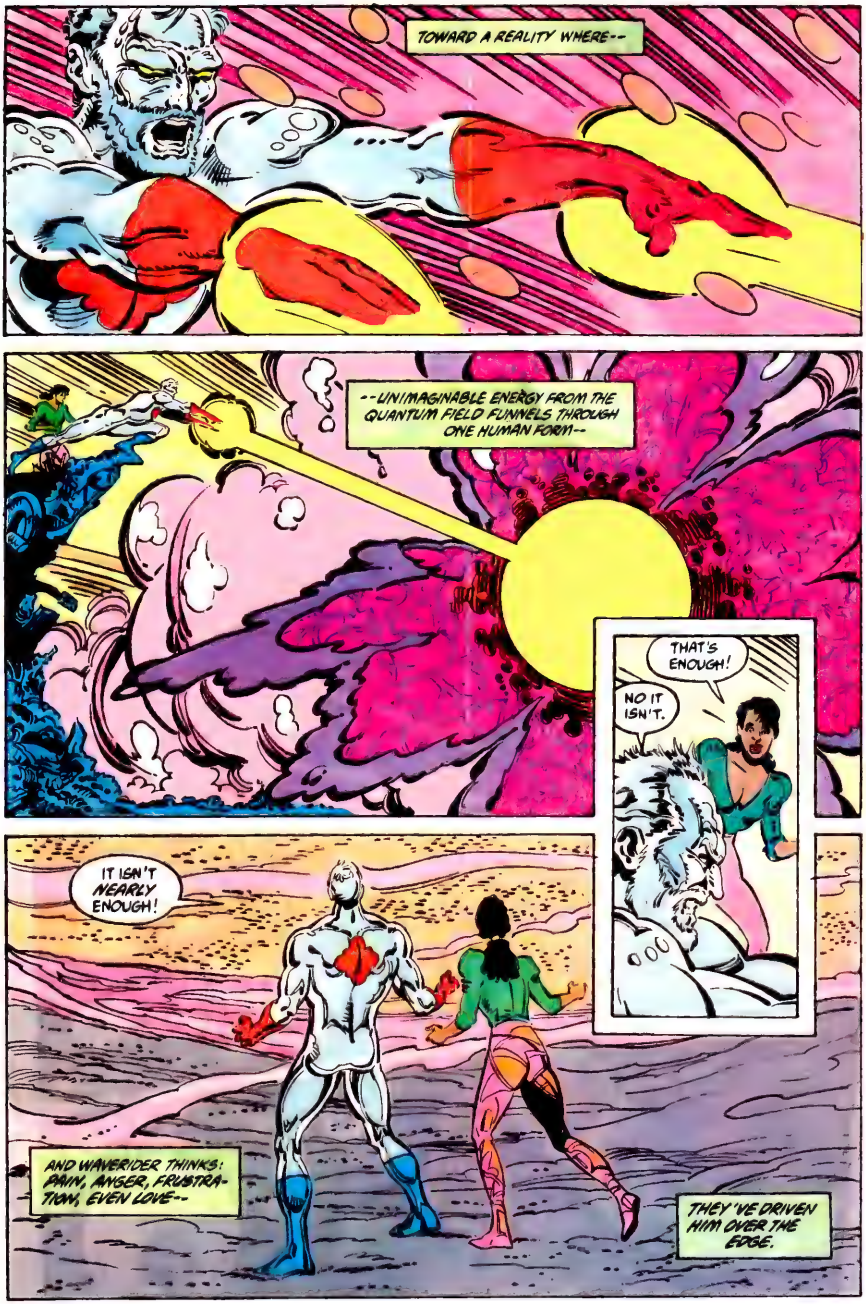

I KEPT THAT PROMISE--EVEN WHEN MY PLANE CRASHED THE FOLLOWING NOVEMBER--OR WAS IT DECEMBER...?
KILLED GOSLIN AND MADE HASH OF MY LEG...
I KNOW, DEAR. DON'T DWELL ON IT.
POLICE
WE'RE HERE, DEAR.
I DON'T NEED YOUR HELP. I CAN GET OUT OF THE DARN CAB MYSELF.
TAXI
AGAIN, WAVERIDER FEELS FORBODING--
YES, DEAR.
--AND THEN HE IS WITH NATHANIEL AND SHIRLEY IN THE CHIEF OF POLICE'S OFFICE--
--TELLING ME IT WAS LEGAL, WHAT WAS DONE TO MY CHILDREN AND GRANDCHILDREN?
PRETTY CLOSE TO IT, MR. ADAM.
LIKE A HIT?
IT'S MY OWN SPECIAL BLEND OF JUCIE AND CANNABIS--WITH JUST A HINT OF MINT.


NO THANK YOU.
ABOUT MY CHILDREN--
WELL, YOU SEE, WHEN THE STREET GANGS WERE GIVEN SEMI-LEGAL STATUS IN NINETY-EIGHT, THEY WERE ALLOWED TO PACK WEAPONS AND TO PROTECT THEIR TURF.
WHAT HAPPENED TODAY WAS A COUPLE'A SCREAMING DEVILS STRAYED INTO SAVAGE HUNS TERRITORY. THE HUNS OPENED FIRE--LEGALLY, YOU UNDERSTAND--AND, WELL, YOUR RELATIVES WERE IN THE WAY.
BAD BREAK, REALLY.
SO NOTHING WILL BE DONE.
NO LAW WAS BROKEN.
I COULD GO OVER YOUR HEAD. TO MY BOSS.
THE PRESIDENT? YOU'LL PARDON ME, BUT YOUR BOSS IS A BAD JOKE.
CAN WE AT LEAST CLAIM...THE BODIES?
SURE. THEY OUGHTTA BE IN THE MORGUE BY NOW. IT'S RIGHT DOWN STAIRS.
SURE YOU WON'T HAVE A HIT?

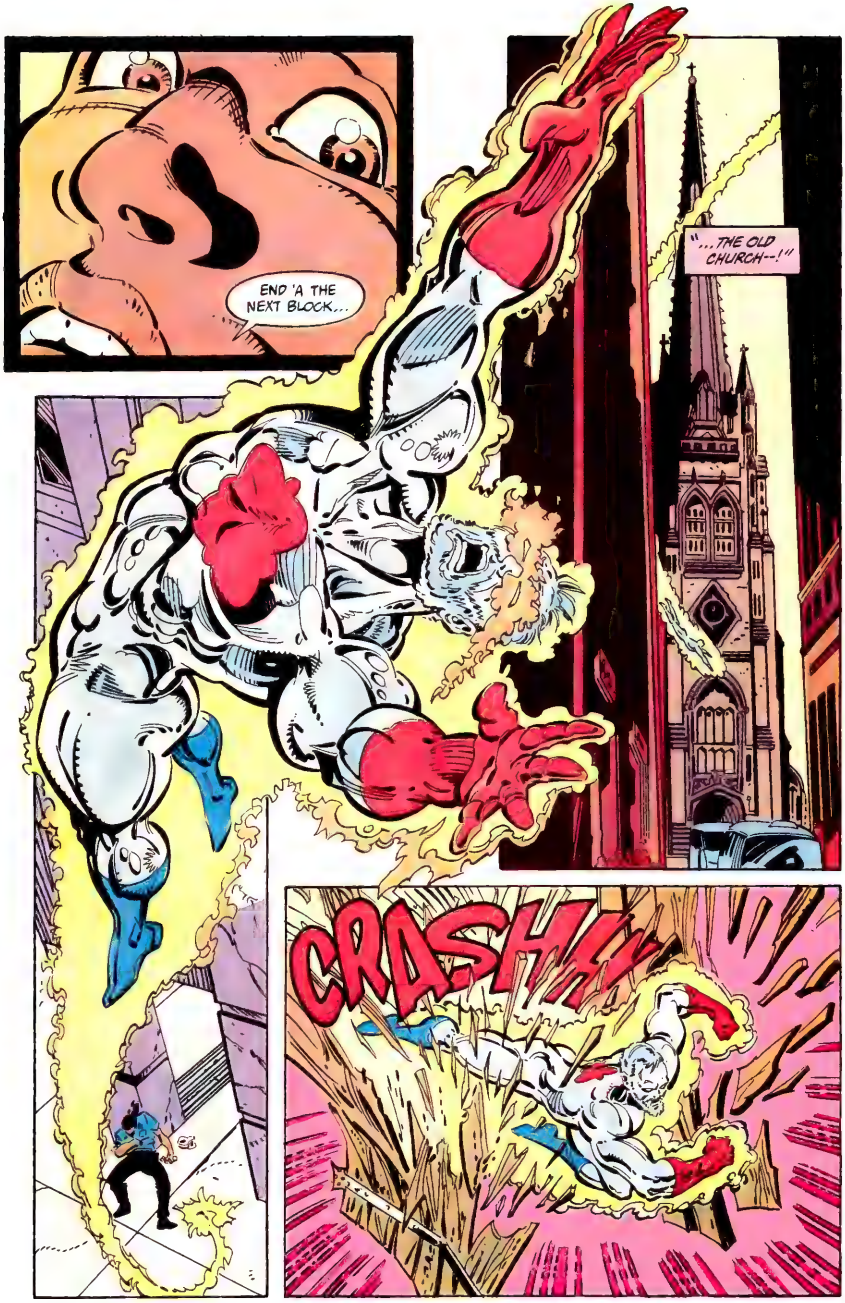

WAVERIDER UNDERSTANDS NATHANIEL'S ANGUISH. HE TOO IS A FATHER WHO CAN REMEMBER WHAT IT WAS LIKE TO LOVE HIS CHILDREN.
-- THE FOUR NOTCHED BY THE HUNS? HEY, THEY AIN'T HERE, LADY.
MORGUE
TAKE THIS JOB AND SHOVE IT!
THEN... WHERE?
WE'RE FULL UP SO WE DONE WHAT WE ALWAYS DO WHEN WE'RE FULL UP-- TOOK 'EM TO THE LANDFILL.
THE...LAND-FILL? THE GARBAGE DUMP?
WELL, WHA'D YOU WANT ME TO DO? HAVE 'EM FOR DINNER?
I-I'LL GET A CAB.
SO THIS IS WHAT IT'S COME TO IN THIS REALITY, HE THINKS.
THIS IS HOW LITTLE THEY THINK OF WHAT WERE ONCE MEN'S MOST SACRED VALUES.

WE'RE HERE.
NO ADMIT

NAT...YOU MUSTN'T--
GET AWAY FROM ME, WOMAN!
TAPPING INTO THE QUANTUM FIELD, BEGINNING TO CHANGE--
DON'T DO IT, WAVERIDER WANTS TO SCREAM.
BECAUSE SOMETHING IS TERRIBLY WRONG--!
ELSEWHERE/WHEN/HOW:
HE HAS BEEN CAUGHT HERE IN THE VOID BETWEEN TIME STREAMS-POSSIBILITIES-REALITIES.
A PLACE REAL YET NOT PERFECTLY EXISTING..
...WHERE A RIFT BEGINS TO OPEN--
--AND HE DRIFTS TOWARDS IT...

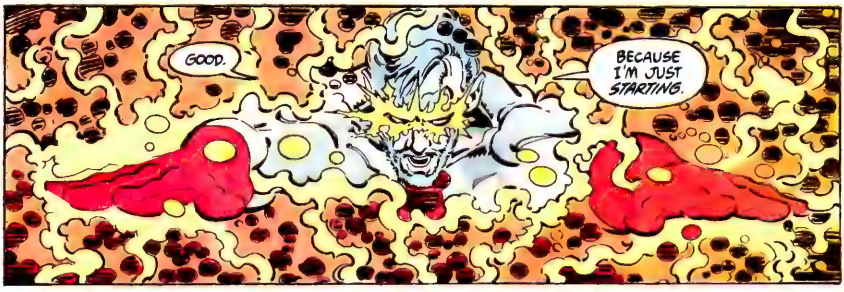

TOWARD A REALITY WHERE--
--UNIMAGINABLE ENERGY FROM THE QUANTUM FIELD FUNNELS THROUGH ONE HUMAN FORM--
THAT'S ENOUGH!
NO IT ISN'T.
IT ISN'T NEARLY ENOUGH!
AND WAVERIDER THINKS: PAIN, ANGER, FRUSTRATION, EVEN LOVE--
THEY'VE DRIVEN HIM OVER THE EDGE.

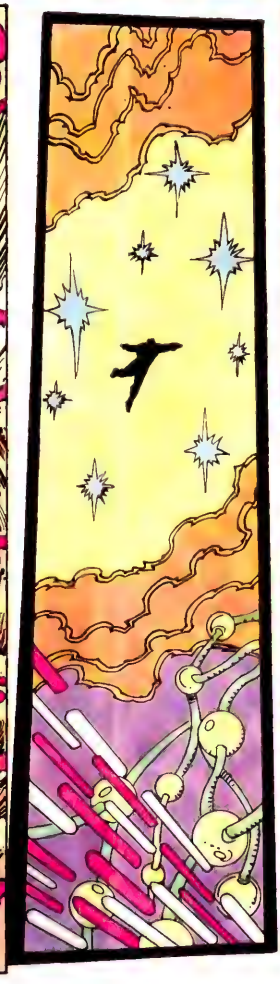
WELL, WELL, WHADDA WE GOT HERE? SOME KINDA POOZER FROM A--
NEVER MIND THE MOUTH.
WHERE'S THE GANG'S HEADQUARTERS? THE SAVAGE HUNS'?
THE HUNS ARE BUDDIES'A MINE, SEE, AND THEY DON'T WANT NO POOZER--
HWUFF!
THE NEXT BLAST SPREADS YOUR GUTS ALL OVER THE SIDEWALK.
WHERE ARE THE HUNS?


END 'A THE NEXT BLOCK...
"...THE OLD CHURCH--!"
CRASH!

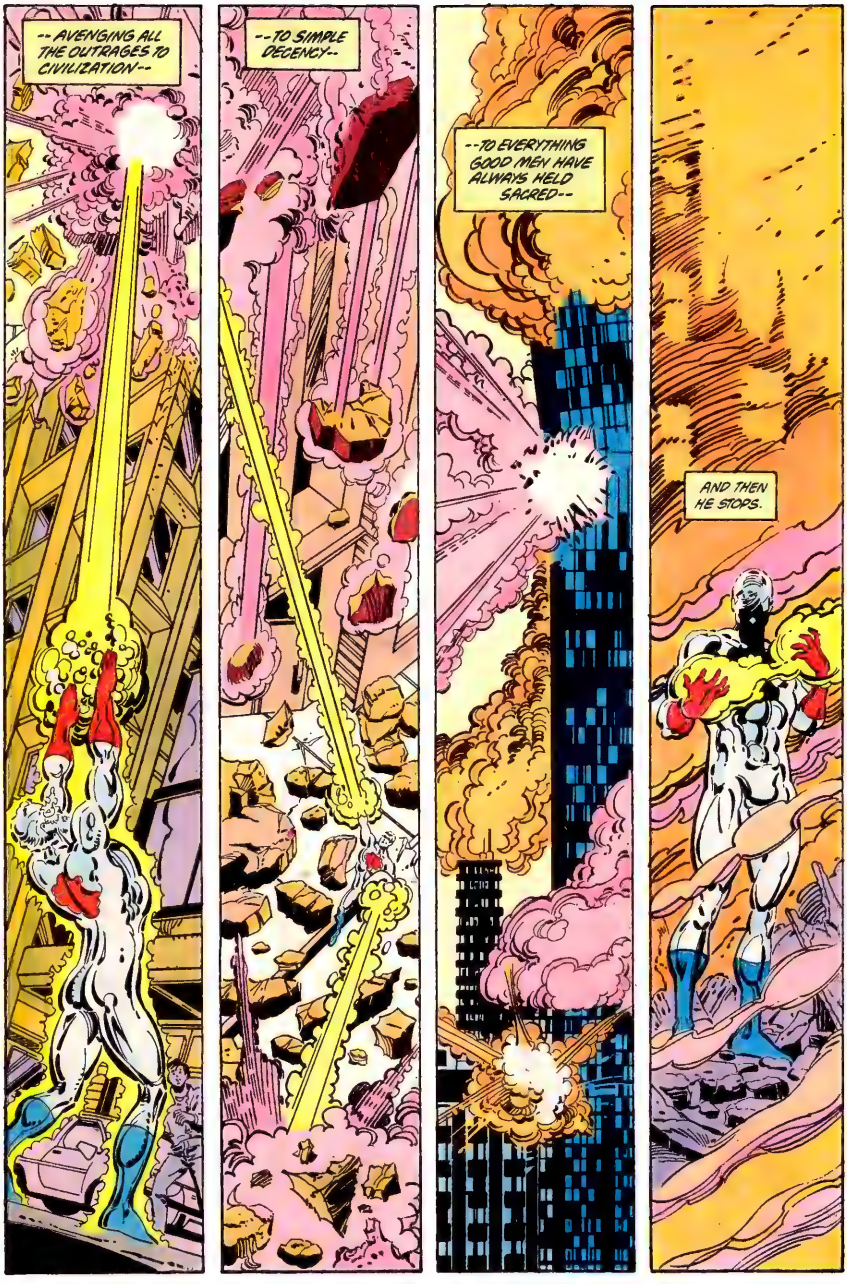
I MAY LET YOU LIVE. IF YOU GET DOWN ON YOUR KNEES AND BEG FORGIVENESS FOR THE LIVES YOU WASTED THIS MORNING--
--I'LL HURT YOU, BUT I MAY LET YOU LIVE.
WHO--?
WHAT THE--?!
NOTCH 'IM.
BLAM BLAM
slime
CHUK

BUDDA BUDDA
BUDDA
DIE
HYMNS
POW
POW!
54
BLAM BLAM
BLAM
POW!
HUH
BANG BANG
KPOW
CLIK
FINISHED?


GOOD.
BECAUSE I'M JUST STARTING.

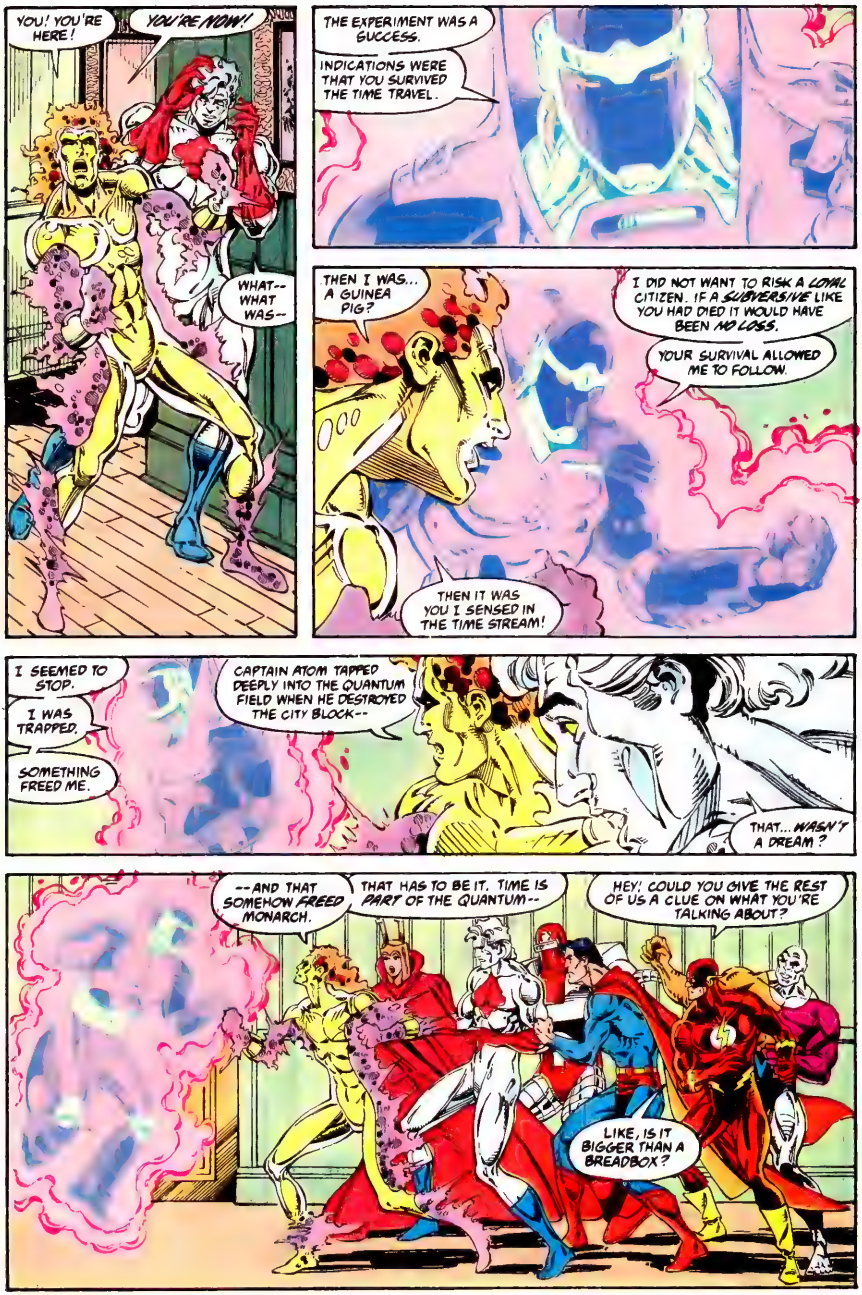


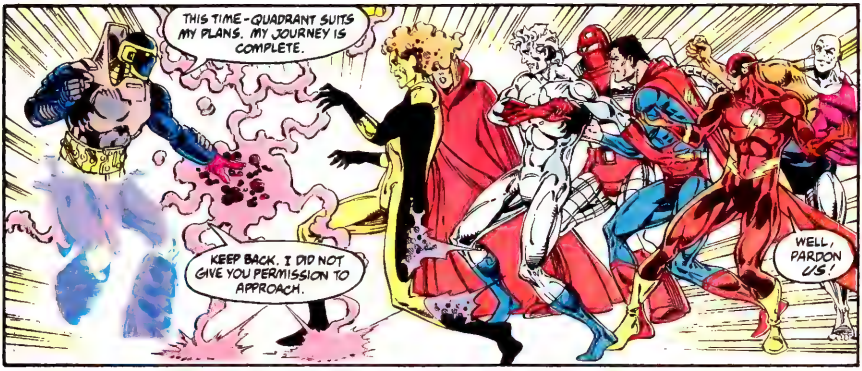
AND DEEP WITHIN NATHANIEL ADAM'S SOUL, RYDER IS IN TORMENT.
BECAUSE HE ISN'T GOING TO STOP.
NATHANIEL ADAM SEES HIMSELF AS AN ANGRY ANGEL--


--AVENGING ALL THE OUTRAGES TO CIVILIZATION--
--TO SIMPLE DECENCY--
--TO EVERYTHING GOOD MEN HAVE ALWAYS HELD SACRED--
AND THEN HE STOPS.

HE LOOKS AT WHAT HE HAS JUST DONE...
...SHATTERS...
YEAHHHHH
...AND MOANS.

AT THAT INSTANT--
--BUT TEN YEARS EARLIER, AND IN A SLIGHTLY DIFFERENT POSSIBILITY...
...THERE IS A BURST OF BRILLIANT AND YET COLD LIGHT.
IT IS AS THOUGH RYDER IS AWAKENING FROM THE DEEPEST OF SLEEPS. FOR A MOMENT, HE STANDS BLINKING, TRYING TO FOCUS, NOT SURE OF WHERE -- OR WHEN -- HE IS...

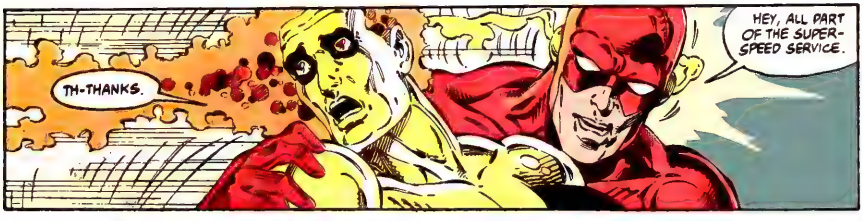

YOU! YOU'RE HERE!
YOU'RE NOW!
WHAT-- WHAT WAS--
THE EXPERIMENT WAS A SUCCESS.
INDICATIONS WERE THAT YOU SURVIVED THE TIME TRAVEL.
THEN I WAS... A GUINEA PIG?
I DID NOT WANT TO RISK A LOYAL CITIZEN. IF A SUBVERSIVE LIKE YOU HAD DIED IT WOULD HAVE BEEN NO LOSS.
YOUR SURVIVAL ALLOWED ME TO FOLLOW.
THEN IT WAS YOU I SENSED IN THE TIME STREAM!
I SEEMED TO STOP.
I WAS TRAPPED.
SOMETHING FREED ME.
CAPTAIN ATOM TAPPED DEEPLY INTO THE QUANTUM FIELD WHEN HE DESTROYED THE CITY BLOCK--
THAT... WASN'T A DREAM?
--AND THAT SOMEHOW FREED MONARCH.
THAT HAS TO BE IT. TIME IS PART OF THE QUANTUM--
HEY! COULD YOU GIVE THE REST OF US A CLUE ON WHAT YOU'RE TALKING ABOUT?
LIKE, IS IT BIGGER THAN A BREADBOX?

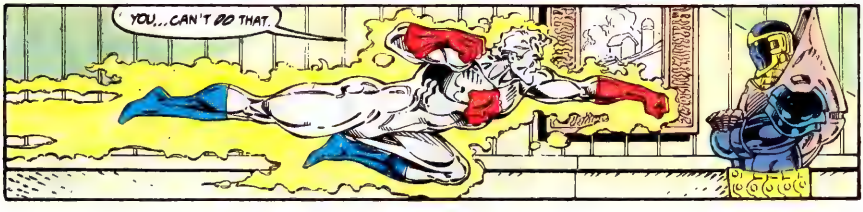

THIS TIME-QUADRANT SUITS MY PLANS. MY JOURNEY IS COMPLETE.
KEEP BACK. I DID NOT GIVE YOU PERMISSION TO APPROACH.
WELL, PARDON US!

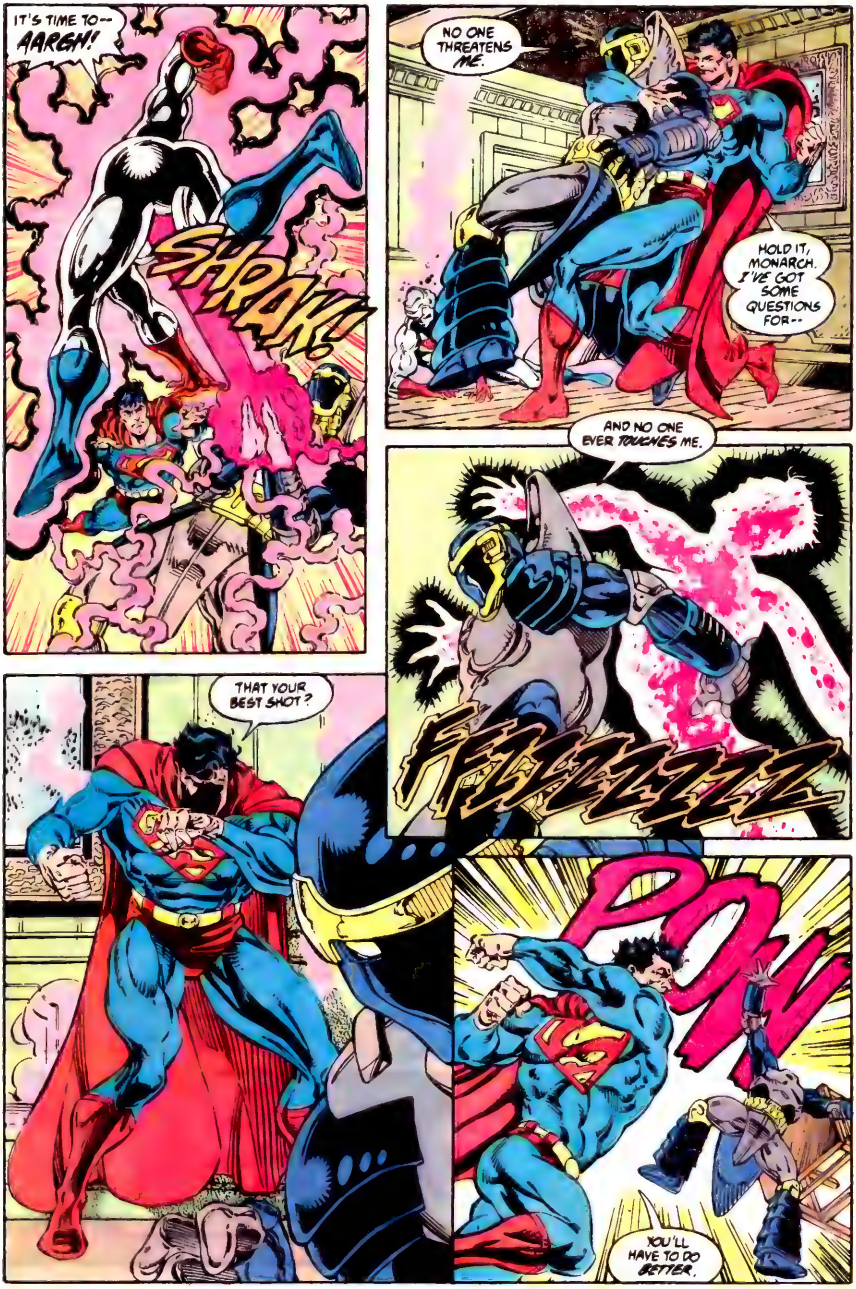
YOU PLANNED TO DESTROY MY EMPIRE.
YOU KNOW THAT?
I AM NOT A FOOL. MY PEACEKEEPERS ARE NOT FOOLS.

YOUR USEFULNESS IS ENDED.

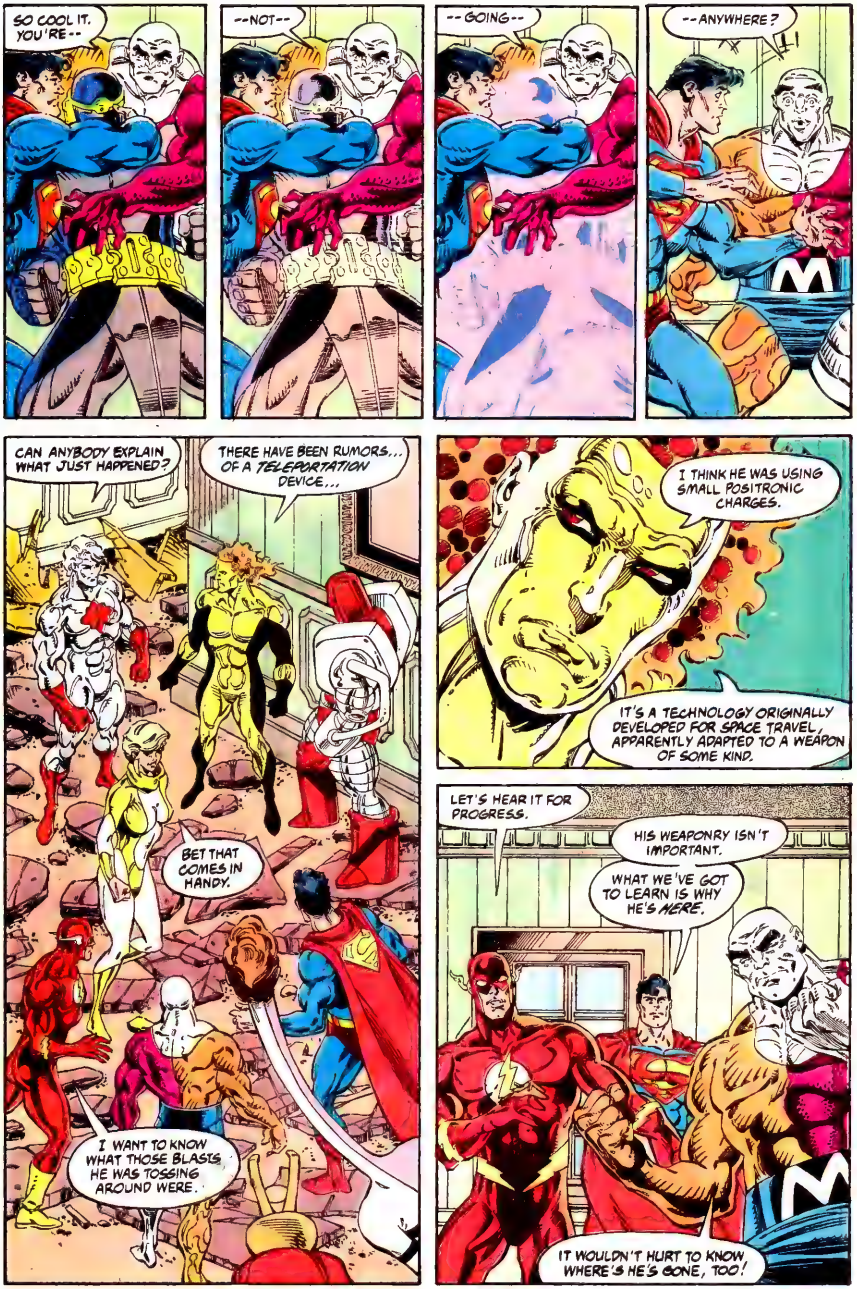
I SENTENCE YOU TO DEATH.
FZZAK!
LOOK OUT!

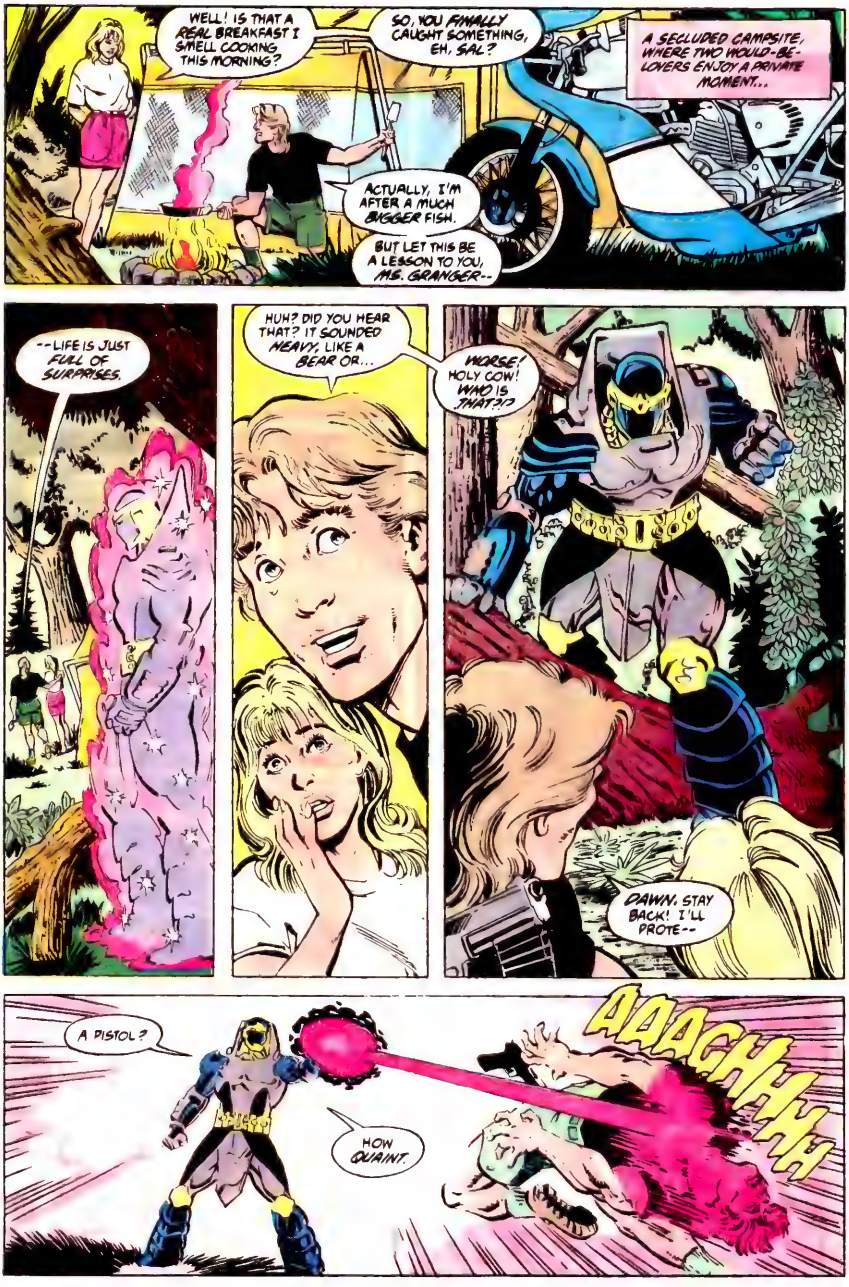

TH-THANKS.
HEY, ALL PART OF THE SUPER-SPEED SERVICE.

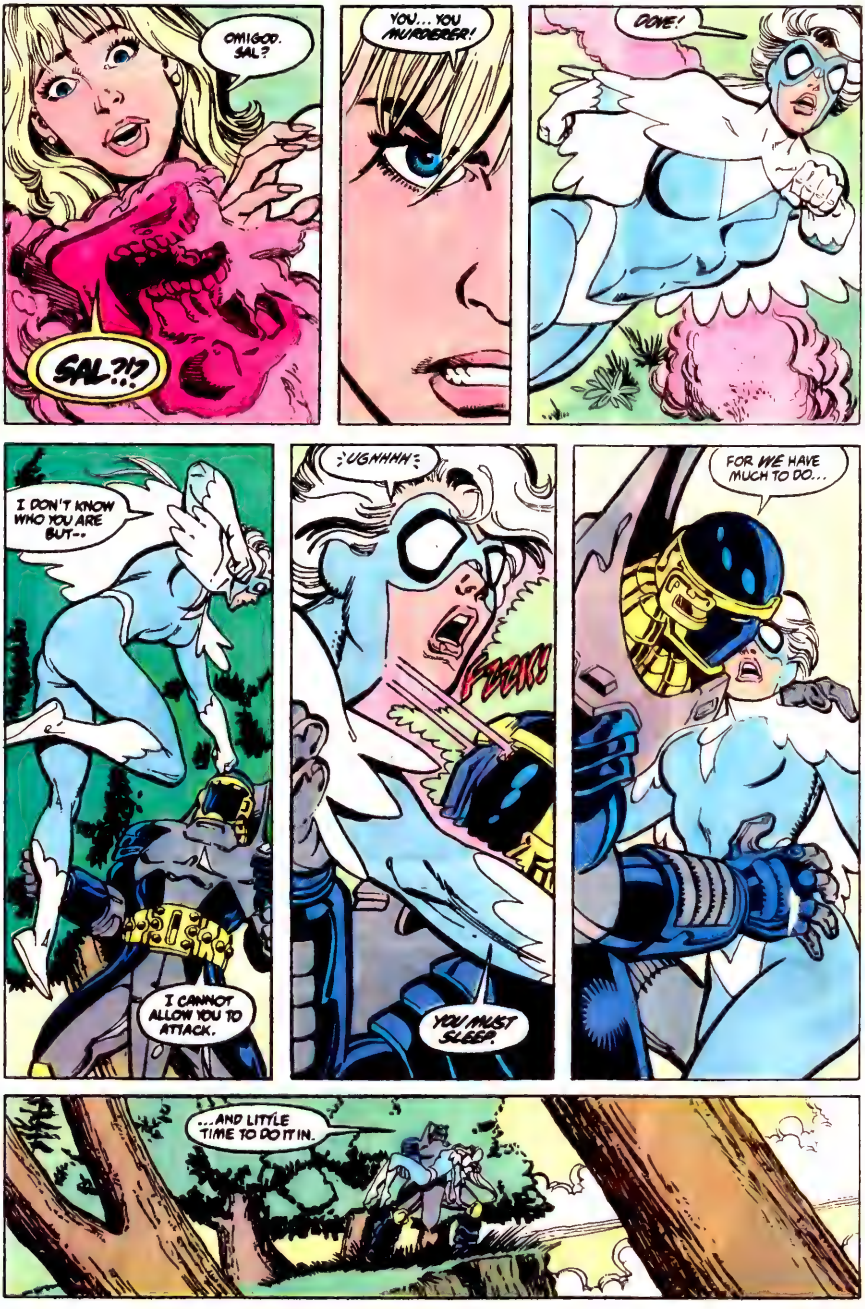

YOU...CAN'T DO THAT.


IT'S TIME TO--
AARGH!
SHROK!
NO ONE THREATENS ME.
HOLD IT, MONARCH. I'VE GOT SOME QUESTIONS FOR--
AND NO ONE EVER TOUCHES ME.
FIZZZZZ
THAT YOUR BEST SHOT?
POW
YOU'LL HAVE TO DO BETTER.

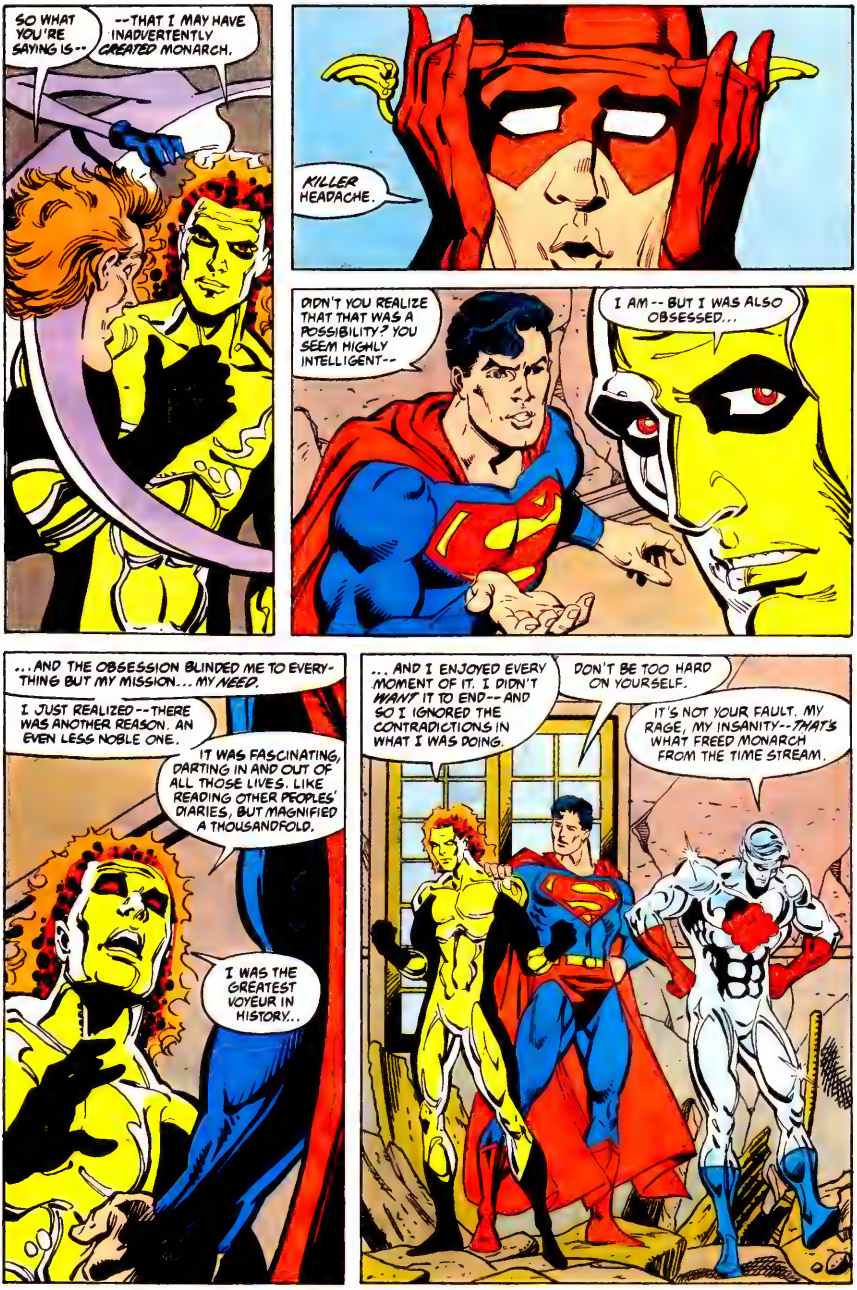
I GROW TIRED OF THESE GAMES.
WHOOM!
THE ROOF --!
LOOK OUT! IT'S COLLAPSING!
THIS IS NOT GOOD!
BLOCK WHAT YOU CAN TO PROTECT THE OTHERS!
PM
THAT'S ENOUGH!
A MOMENT AGO, I PULLED MY PUNCH.
DON'T MAKE ME HIT YOU AGAIN.
TRUST ME, THAT'S THE BEST ADVICE YOU'LL EVER GET.

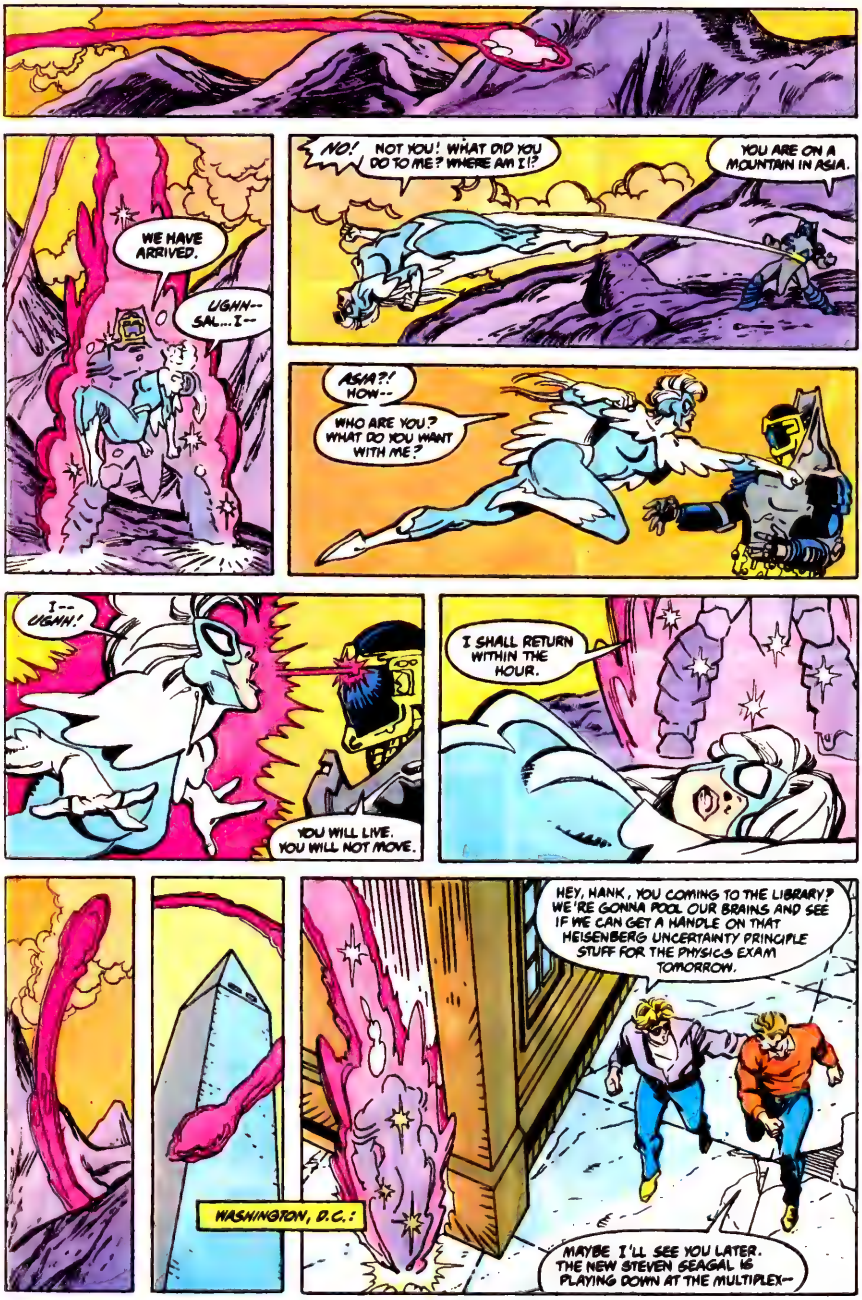

SO COOL IT, YOU'RE--
--NOT--
--GOING--
--ANYWHERE?
CAN ANYBODY EXPLAIN WHAT JUST HAPPENED?
THERE HAVE BEEN RUMORS... OF A TELEPORTATION DEVICE...
BET THAT COMES IN HANDY.
I WANT TO KNOW WHAT THOSE BLASTS HE WAS TOSSING AROUND WERE.
I THINK HE WAS USING SMALL POSITRONIC CHARGES.
IT'S A TECHNOLOGY ORIGINALLY DEVELOPED FOR SPACE TRAVEL, APPARENTLY ADAPTED TO A WEAPON OF SOME KIND.
LET'S HEAR IT FOR PROGRESS.
HIS WEAPONRY ISN'T IMPORTANT.
WHAT WE'VE GOT TO LEARN IS WHY HE'S HERE.
IT WOULDN'T HURT TO KNOW WHERE'S HE'S GONE, TOO!


WELL! IS THAT A REAL BREAKFAST I SMELL COOKING THIS MORNING?
SO, YOU FINALLY CAUGHT SOMETHING, EH, SAL?
A SECLUDED CAMPSITE, WHERE TWO WOULD-BE-LOVERS ENJOY A PRIVATE MOMENT...
ACTUALLY, I'M AFTER A MUCH BIGGER FISH.
BUT LET THIS BE A LESSON TO YOU, MS. GRANGER--
--LIFE IS JUST FULL OF SURPRISES.
HUH? DID YOU HEAR THAT? IT SOUNDED HEAVY, LIKE A BEAR OR...
WORSE! HOLY COW! WHO IS THAT?!?
DAWN, STAY BACK! I'LL PROTE--
A PISTOL?
HOW QUAINT.
AAACHHH


OMIGOD. SAL?
SAL?!?
YOU... YOU MURDERER!
DONE!
I DON'T KNOW WHO YOU ARE BUT--
I CANNOT ALLOW YOU TO ATTACK.
:UGHHHH:
FZZK!
YOU MUST SLEEP.
FOR WE HAVE MUCH TO DO...
...AND LITTLE TIME TO DO IT IN.

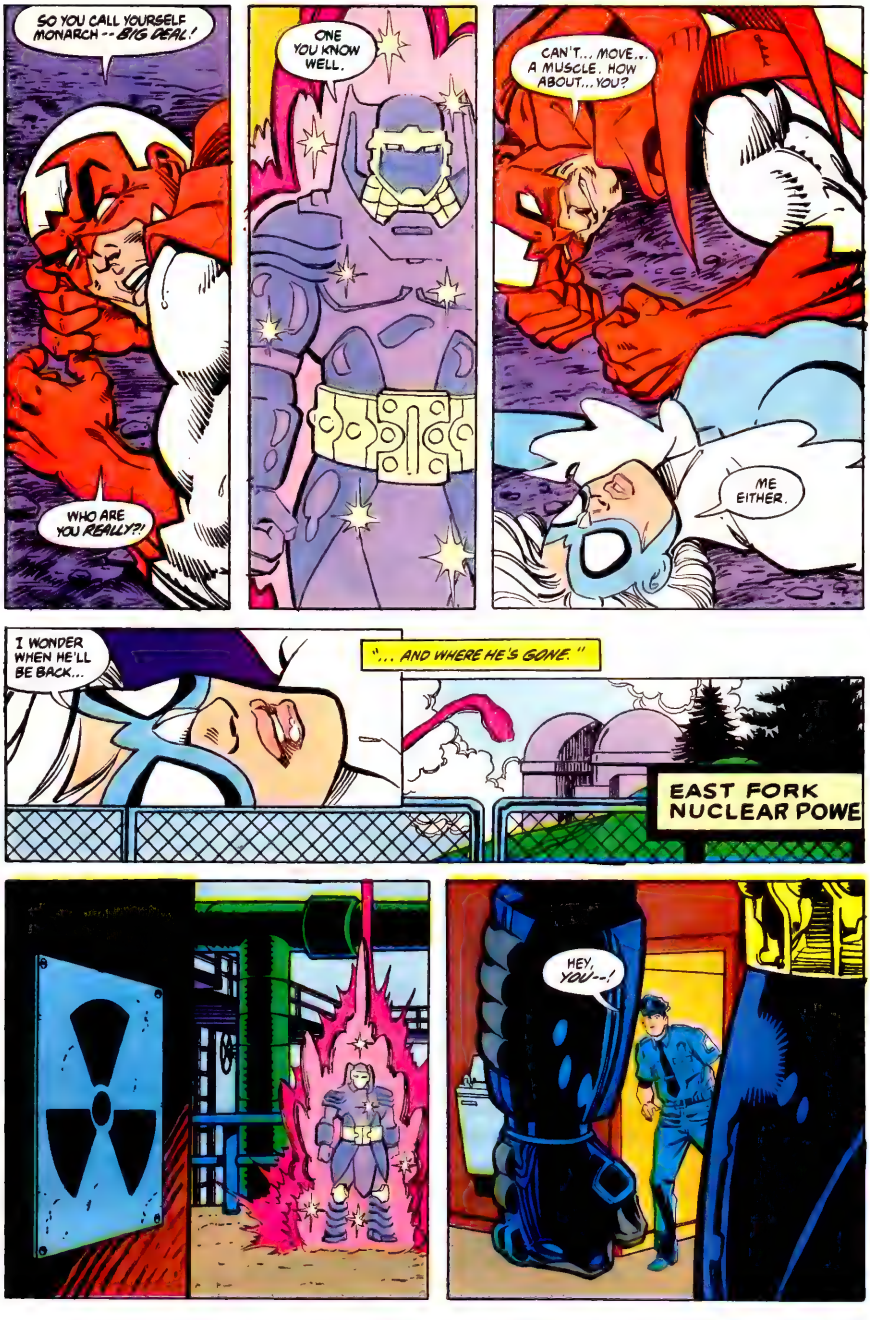
JUSTICE LEAGUE HEADQUARTERS:
...LET ME SEE IF I'VE GOT THIS STRAIGHT.
YOU TOUCHED CAP HERE, AND SAW THAT HE ISN'T GOING TO BE THIS MONARCH?
NO, NOT MONARCH, BUT SOMETHING JUST AS BAD.
CAPTAIN ATOM'S PROBABILITY LINES DON'T SEEM TO CULMINATE IN HIS BECOMING THE TYRANT--CORRECT.
HAVEN'T YOU ELIMINATED ALMOST ALL THE POSSIBILITIES THEN?
I DON'T THINK HE'S REALLY ELIMINATED ANYONE.
NO? CARE TO EXPLAIN, FOR THE BENEFIT OF US UNDERACHIEVERS?
SUPERMAN'S RIGHT. WITH EACH PERSON I TOUCHED, I FOLLOWED ONE LINE OF PROBABILITY.
ONE. BUT NOT ALL.
IN FACT, THE VERY ACT OF TOUCHING THAT PERSON ALTERED HIS POSSIBLE FUTURE BECAUSE I WAS, AT THAT INSTANT, PART OF HIS OR HER PAST.
I HAVE A FEELING I'M ABOUT TO GET A HEADACHE.
WHEN I TOUCHED SUPERMAN, FOR EXAMPLE, I SAW A PROBABILITY THAT WAS CREATED BY THE CONDITIONS OF HIS LIFE BEFORE I INTERFERED. BUT AFTERWARD, MY INTERFERENCE CREATED A NEW CONDITION--
--AND A NEW SET OF PROBABILITIES.
YEP. HEADACHE.


SO WHAT YOU'RE SAYING IS--
--THAT I MAY HAVE INADVERTENTLY CREATED MONARCH.
KILLER HEADACHE.
DIDN'T YOU REALIZE THAT THAT WAS A POSSIBILITY? YOU SEEM HIGHLY INTELLIGENT--
I AM -- BUT I WAS ALSO OBSESSED...
...AND THE OBSESSION BLINDED ME TO EVERYTHING BUT MY MISSION... MY NEED.
I JUST REALIZED--THERE WAS ANOTHER REASON. AN EVEN LESS NOBLE ONE.
IT WAS FASCINATING, DARTING IN AND OUT OF ALL THOSE LIVES. LIKE READING OTHER PEOPLES' DIARIES, BUT MAGNIFIED A THOUSANDFOLD.
I WAS THE GREATEST VOYEUR IN HISTORY...
... AND I ENJOYED EVERY MOMENT OF IT. I DIDN'T WANT IT TO END--AND SO I IGNORED THE CONTRADICTIONS IN WHAT I WAS DOING.
DON'T BE TOO HARD ON YOURSELF.
IT'S NOT YOUR FAULT. MY RAGE, MY INSANITY--THAT'S WHAT FREED MONARCH FROM THE TIME STREAM.


WE HAVE ARRIVED.
UGHN-- SAL... I--
NO! NOT YOU! WHAT DID YOU DO TO ME? WHERE AM I!?
YOU ARE ON A MOUNTAIN IN ASIA.
ASIA?! HOW--
WHO ARE YOU? WHAT DO YOU WANT WITH ME?
I-- UGHN!
YOU WILL LIVE. YOU WILL NOT MOVE.
I SHALL RETURN WITHIN THE HOUR.
WASHINGTON, D.C.:
HEY, HANK, YOU COMING TO THE LIBRARY? WE'RE GONNA POOL OUR BRAINS AND SEE IF WE CAN GET A HANDLE ON THAT HEISENBERG UNCERTAINTY PRINCIPLE STUFF FOR THE PHYSICS EXAM TOMORROW.
MAYBE I'LL SEE YOU LATER. THE NEW STEVEN SEAGAL IS PLAYING DOWN AT THE MULTIPLEX--

NOPE. NEVER MISS STEVE KICKIN' SOME--
HANK HALL...HAWK ...YOU WILL COME WITH ME.
OR ELSE THERE WILL BE IMMINENT DESTRUCTION.
WHO THE--!
HE--HE KNOWS ME. HE KNOWS WHO I AM!
HE LOOKS LIKE SERIOUS TROUBLE. BUT I CAN'T TURN INTO HAWK-- I'M UNDER A COURT ORDER NOT TO! ※
NO. I CAN'T LET HIM HURT ANYONE. BESIDES, NO ONE'S AROUND. WHO'D EVER NOTICE--
※ HANK HALL WAS REPRIMANDED IN HAWK & DOVE #28
--HAWK!
ALL RIGHT, BUCKO. NO ONE THREATENS MY TOWN.
WELL, WELL, WELL. GUESS WHO'S NOT AS TOUGH AS HE LOOKS.
YOU REACT IMMEDIATELY WITH FORCE. THIS IS GOOD. THIS MAKES ME PROUD.
STRIKE AT ME AGAIN.

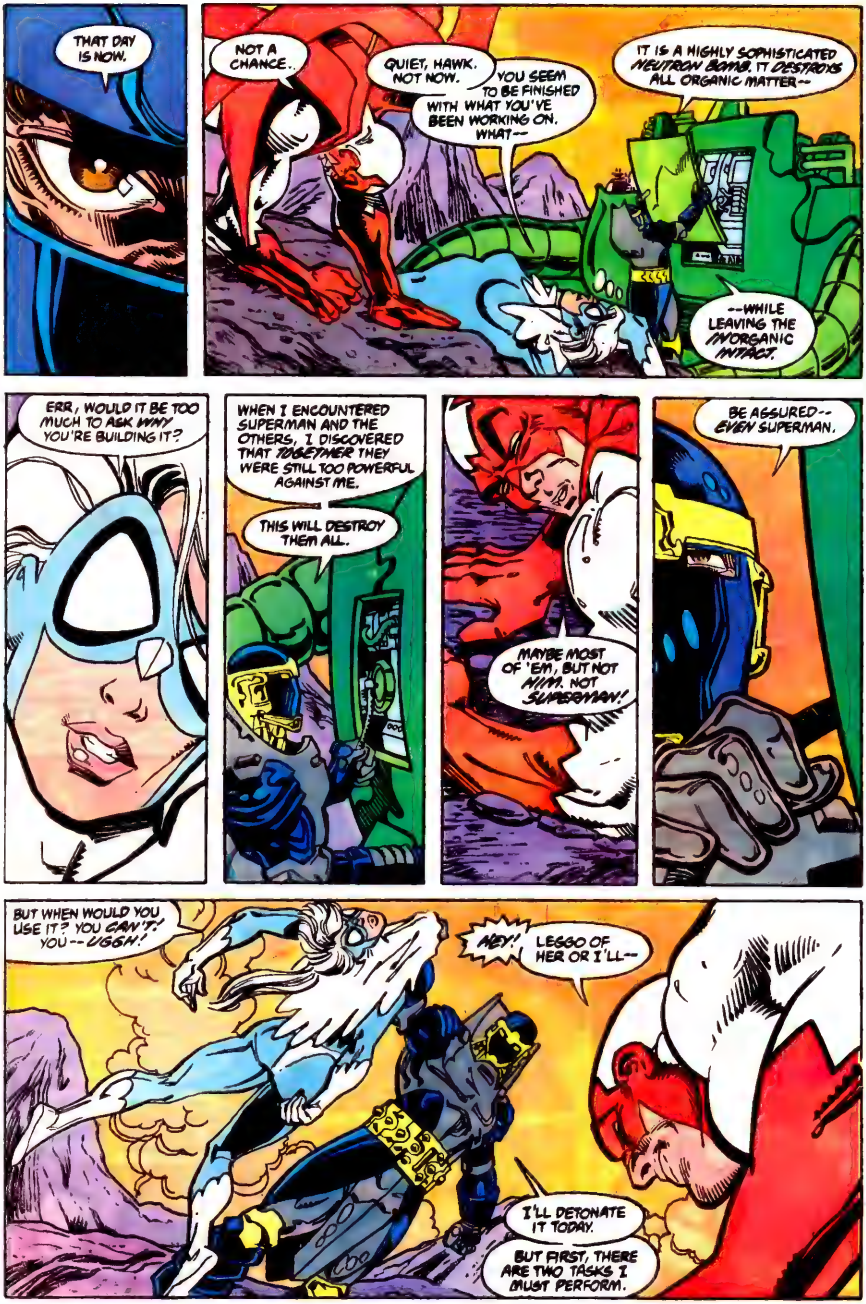
IF YOU INSIST--
AARGHH
FRACKK
YOU WILL REMAIN HERE UNTIL I RETURN. YOU WILL NOT BE UNCOMFORTABLE. BUT YOU WILL NOT BE ABLE TO MOVE.
:OOPHF!:
HAWK! ARE YOU--
DOVE?
HE GOT YOU TOO? WHO IS THIS GUY?
I AM MONARCH.
I COME FROM THE FUTURE. I AM HERE TO CLOSE OFF ALL POSSIBILITIES EXCEPT FOR THE ONE THAT WILL ALLOW ME TO EXIST.


SO YOU CALL YOURSELF MONARCH -- BIG DEAL!
WHO ARE YOU REALLY?!
ONE YOU KNOW WELL.
CAN'T... MOVE.. A MUSCLE. HOW ABOUT... YOU?
ME EITHER.
I WONDER WHEN HE'LL BE BACK...
"... AND WHERE HE'S GONE."
EAST FORK NUCLEAR POWE
HEY, YOU--!

SHOW ME SOME I.D.!
AARGH
OUR TOP STORY TONIGHT: THE BOLD THEFT OF RADIUM ISOTOPES FROM THE EAST FORK--
"...ELECTRON MICROSCOPE COMPONENTS WERE STOLEN TODAY FROM--"
"...CHEMICAL CATALYSTS..."
"...INDUCTION COILS REPORTED MISSING..."
"...PLASTIC INSULATION..."
"S.T.A.R. LABS CLAIMS THAT EXPERIMENTAL HIGH SPEED MICROPROCESSOR CHIPS WERE..."
"...X-RAY PLATES..."

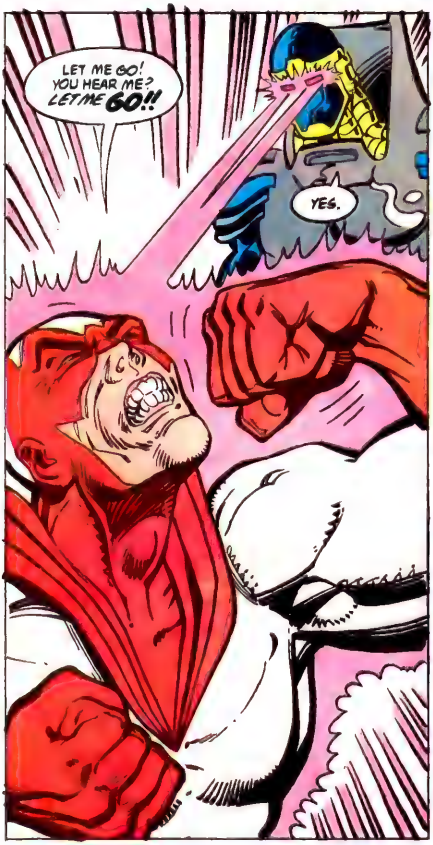
--AND LAST IN THE SERIES OF BIZARRE THEFTS TODAY, A PORTRAIT OF MILLARD FILLMORE...
...WAS TAKEN FROM THE NATIONAL GALLERY IN WASHINGTON...
MILLARD FILLMORE? AT LEAST HE COULD HAVE SWIPED LINCOLN OR WASHINGTON... SOMEBODY WITH A LITTLE CLASS!
ALL THESE SCIENTIFIC THEFTS IN ONE DAY. IT MUST BE MONARCH. BUT WHAT ON EARTH COULD HE WANT WITH A PAINTING?
PERHAPS SOME ELEMENT IN THE PIGMENTS--?
DO YOU KNOW SOMETHING YOU AREN'T TELLING US?
NO... ONLY RUMORS AGAIN. I'VE HEARD THAT MONARCH'S PRIVATE LAB WAS WORKING ON A NEW, CLEAN SOURCE OF ENERGY FROM UNLIKELY COMPONENTS.
FROM WHAT WE KNOW ABOUT THIS DUDE, HE PROBABLY ISN'T GONNA USE IT TO POWER A VACUUM CLEANER.
WONDER IF MILLARD FILLMORE COULD BLOW UP THE WORLD...
WELL, DARTH VADER'S NASTY OLDER BROTHER IS FINALLY BACK.
YOU READY TO TELL US THE REASON FOR YOUR SCAVENGER HUNT?
SOON.

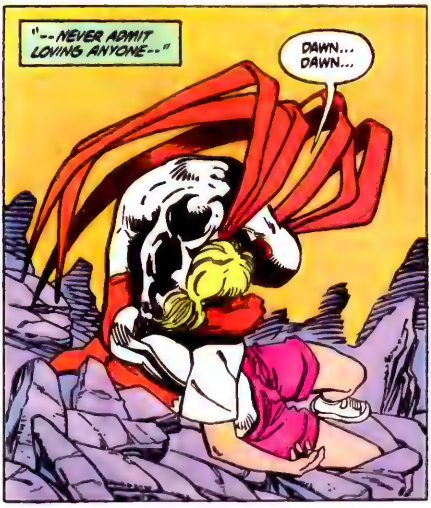
IF WE PROMISE NOT TO TRY TO ESCAPE, WILL YOU RELEASE US?
YOU WOULD KEEP THE PROMISE. WE WOULD NOT.
HOW DO YOU KNOW WHAT I'D DO?
BECAUSE I DO.
I KNOW MUCH. SOME OF IT, SUCH AS WHERE WHAT I NEEDED WAS LOCATED, I LEARNED FROM HISTORY BOOKS. SOME I REMEMBER. YOU I REMEMBER: I REMEMBER YOUR RAGE AND THE VIOLENCE YOU CAN BARELY CONTAIN AND THE PAIN IT CAUSES YOU.
I REMEMBER HOW STUPID YOU FEEL AND HOW AWKWARD YOU ACT IN THE PRESENCE OF WOMEN..
... AND HOW YOU TRY TO DISGUISE YOUR FEELINGS OF INSECURITY WITH MACHISMO.
HANK, TAKE IT EASY. HE'S JUST TRYING TO UNNERVE YOU.
YEAH, BUT IT'S WORKING!
I REMEMBER HOW YOU CONFUSED LOVE WITH LUST AND HOW YOU COULD NEVER ADMIT LOVING ANYONE, INCLUDING YOUR PARTNER.
I REMEMBER HOW YOU FEARED THAT ONE DAY SOMETHING WOULD CAUSE YOU TO LOSE CONTROL AND THE RAGE WITHIN YOU WOULD FINALLY CONSUME YOU.
HOW YOU NEEDED YOUR PARTNER TO PROVIDE A CHECK ON THE INSANITY YOU KNEW LIVED WITHIN IT.


THAT DAY IS NOW.
NOT A CHANCE..
QUIET, HAWK. NOT NOW.
YOU SEEM TO BE FINISHED WITH WHAT YOU'VE BEEN WORKING ON. WHAT--
IT IS A HIGHLY SOPHISTICATED NEUTRON BOMB. IT DESTROYS ALL ORGANIC MATTER--
--WHILE LEAVING THE INORGANIC INTACT.
ERR, WOULD IT BE TOO MUCH TO ASK WHY YOU'RE BUILDING IT?
WHEN I ENCOUNTERED SUPERMAN AND THE OTHERS, I DISCOVERED THAT TOGETHER THEY WERE STILL TOO POWERFUL AGAINST ME.
THIS WILL DESTROY THEM ALL.
MAYBE MOST OF 'EM, BUT NOT HIM. NOT SUPERMAN!
BE ASSURED-- EVEN SUPERMAN.
BUT WHEN WOULD YOU USE IT? YOU CAN'T! YOU-- UGGH!
HEY! LEGGO OF HER OR I'LL--
I'LL DETONATE IT TODAY.
BUT FIRST, THERE ARE TWO TASKS I MUST PERFORM.

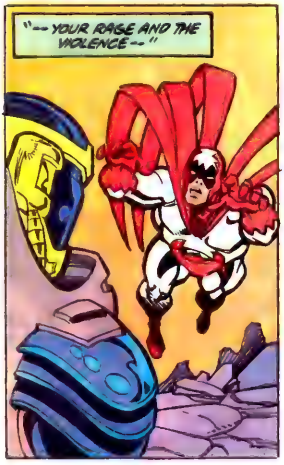
FIRST, I WILL KILL YOUR PARTNER.
NO! LEAVE HER ALONE!
HANK?!?
SHRAAKK
NO, DON'T!!
SH
NOOOOOOOOOOOO
DOVE?
OMIGOD-- DAWN!?

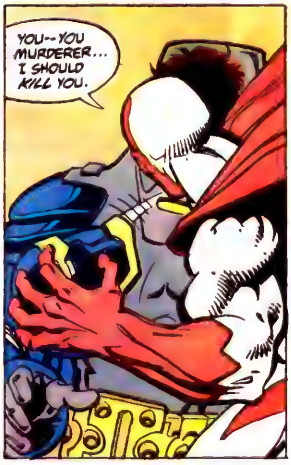
IT IS DONE.


LET ME GO! YOU HEAR ME? LET ME GO!!
YES.

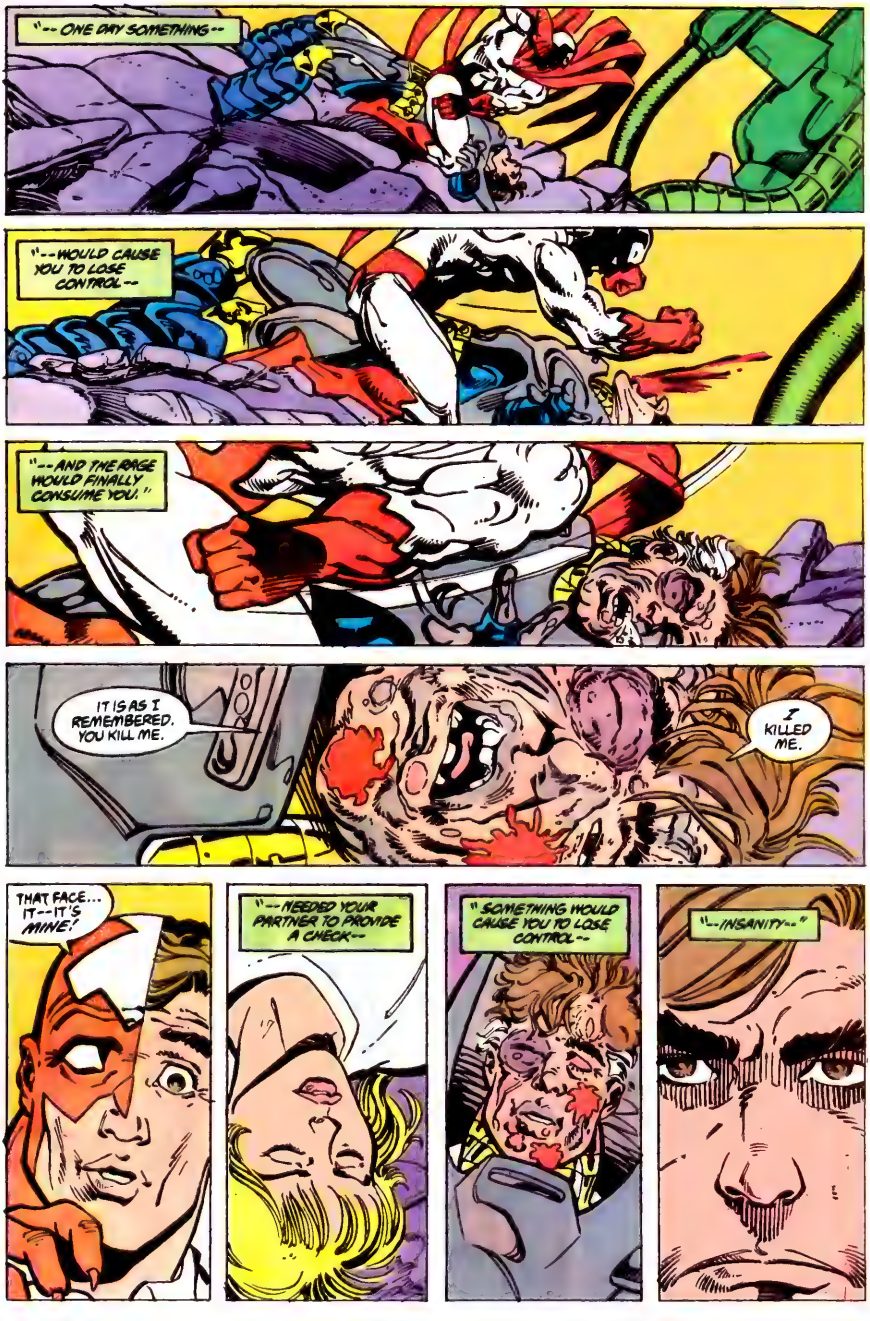

"--NEVER ADMIT LOVING ANYONE--"
DAWN... DAWN...

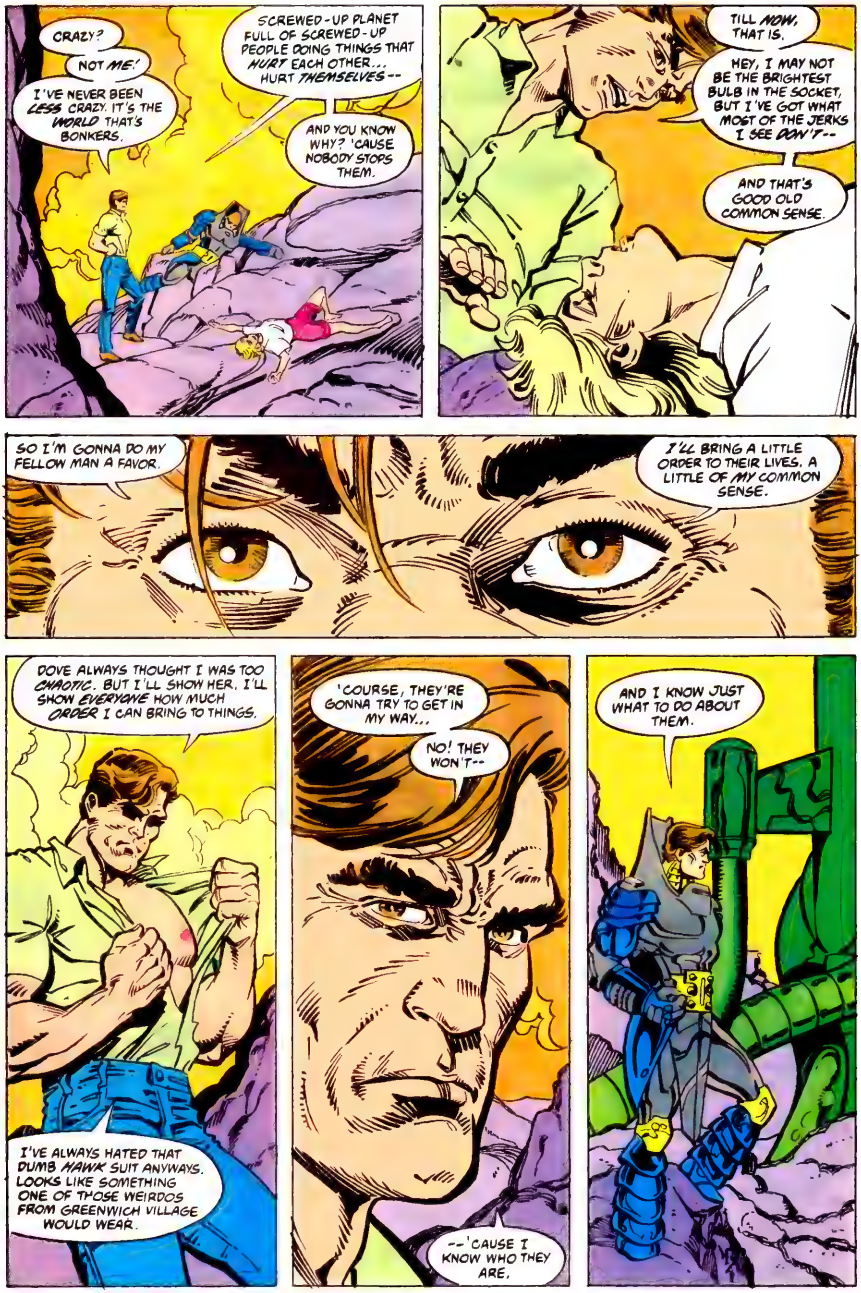
YOU'RE GONNA PAY.

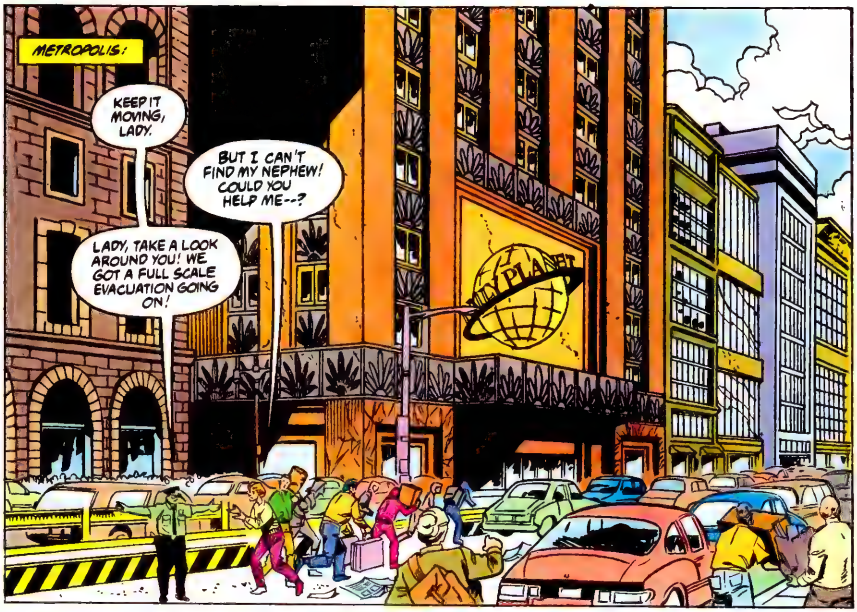

"--YOUR RAGE AND THE VIOLENCE--"

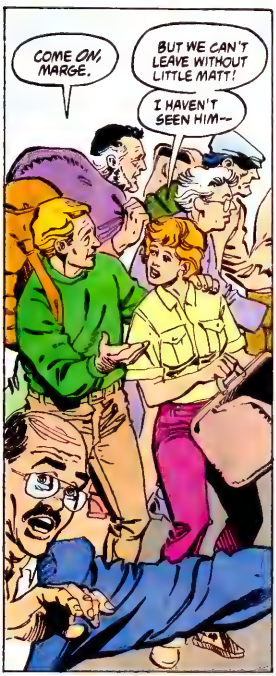

YOU--YOU MURDERER... I SHOULD KILL YOU.

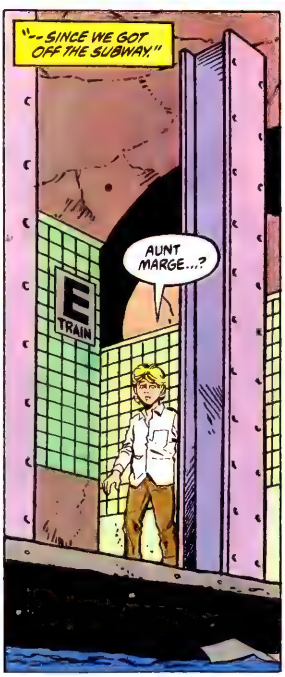
YES! THAT'S IT! FOR WHAT YOU DID TO HER--
WHAM!
I WILL KILL YOU!!


"-- ONE DAY SOMETHING --
"-- WOULD CAUSE YOU TO LOSE CONTROL --
"-- AND THE RAGE WOULD FINALLY CONSUME YOU."
IT IS AS I REMEMBERED. YOU KILL ME.
I KILLED ME.
THAT FACE... IT -- IT'S MINE!
"-- NEEDED YOUR PARTNER TO PROVIDE A CHECK --
"SOMETHING WOULD CAUSE YOU TO LOSE CONTROL --
"-- INSANITY --"

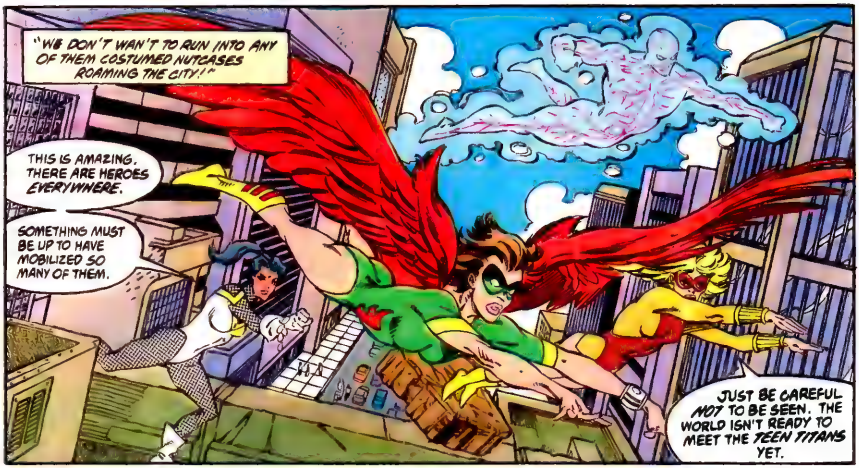

CRAZY?
NOT ME!
I'VE NEVER BEEN LESS CRAZY. IT'S THE WORLD THAT'S BONKERS.
SCREWED-UP PLANET FULL OF SCREWED-UP PEOPLE DOING THINGS THAT HURT EACH OTHER... HURT THEMSELVES--
AND YOU KNOW WHY? 'CAUSE NOBODY STOPS THEM.
TILL NOW, THAT IS.
HEY, I MAY NOT BE THE BRIGHTEST BULB IN THE SOCKET, BUT I'VE GOT WHAT MOST OF THE JERKS I SEE DON'T--
AND THAT'S GOOD OLD COMMON SENSE.
SO I'M GONNA DO MY FELLOW MAN A FAVOR.
I'LL BRING A LITTLE ORDER TO THEIR LIVES. A LITTLE OF MY COMMON SENSE.
DOVE ALWAYS THOUGHT I WAS TOO CHAOTIC. BUT I'LL SHOW HER. I'LL SHOW EVERYONE HOW MUCH ORDER I CAN BRING TO THINGS.
I'VE ALWAYS HATED THAT DUMB HAWK SUIT ANYWAYS. LOOKS LIKE SOMETHING ONE OF THOSE WEIRDOS FROM GREENWICH VILLAGE WOULD WEAR.
'COURSE, THEY'RE GONNA TRY TO GET IN MY WAY...
NO! THEY WON'T--
--'CAUSE I KNOW WHO THEY ARE.
AND I KNOW JUST WHAT TO DO ABOUT THEM.


METROPOLIS:
KEEP IT MOVING, LADY.
BUT I CAN'T FIND MY NEPHEW! COULD YOU HELP ME--?
LADY, TAKE A LOOK AROUND YOU! WE GOT A FULL SCALE EVACUATION GOING ON!
DAILY PLANET


COME ON, MARGE.
BUT WE CAN'T LEAVE WITHOUT LITTLE MATT!
I HAVEN'T SEEN HIM--

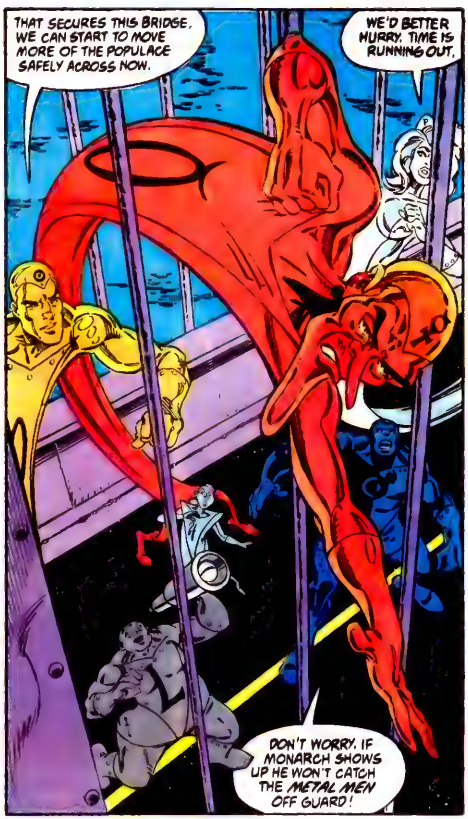

"--SINCE WE GOT OFF THE SUBWAY."
AUNT MARGE...?
E TRAIN

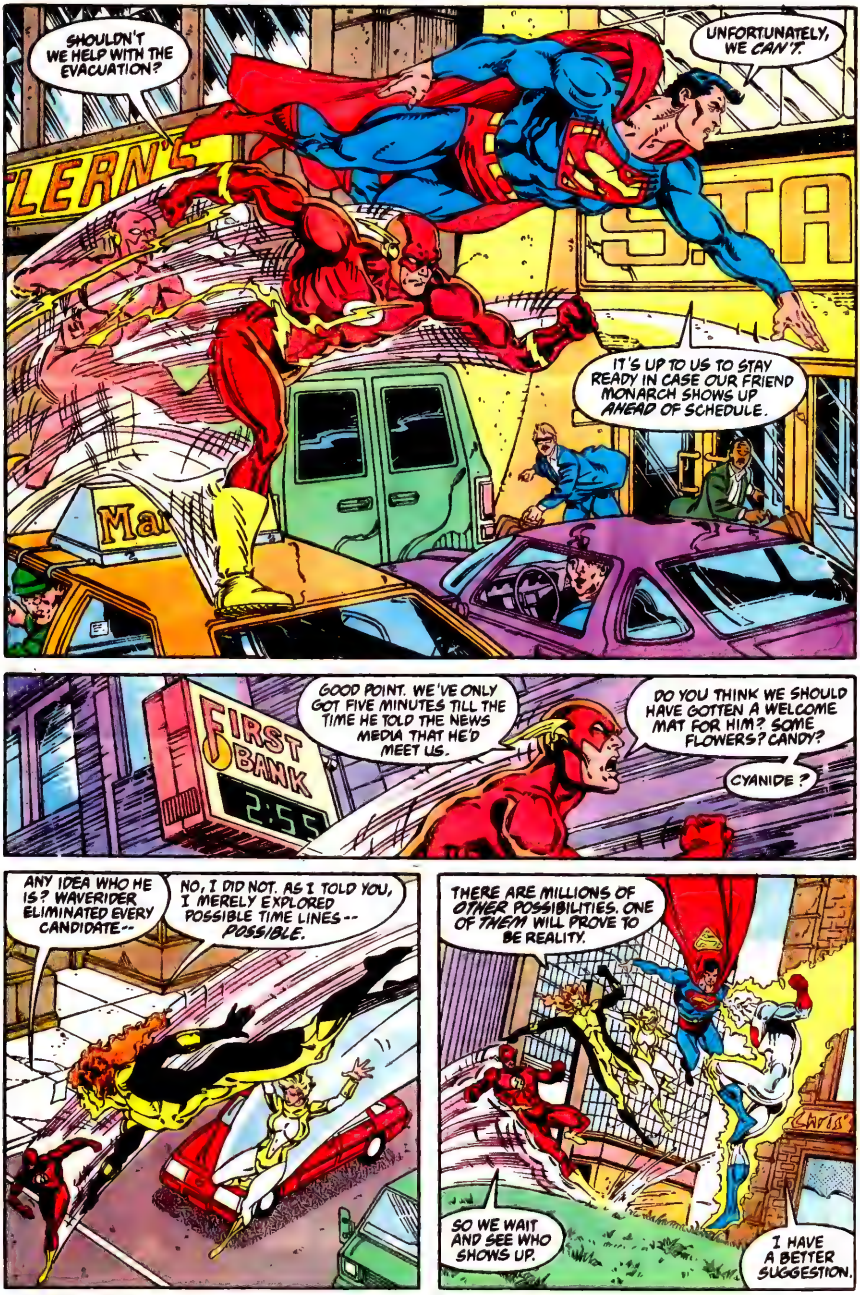
AHH, THE LITTLE DUMMY PROB'LY HOOKED UP WITH SOME SCHOOLMATES.
COME ON, WILL YA'--?!

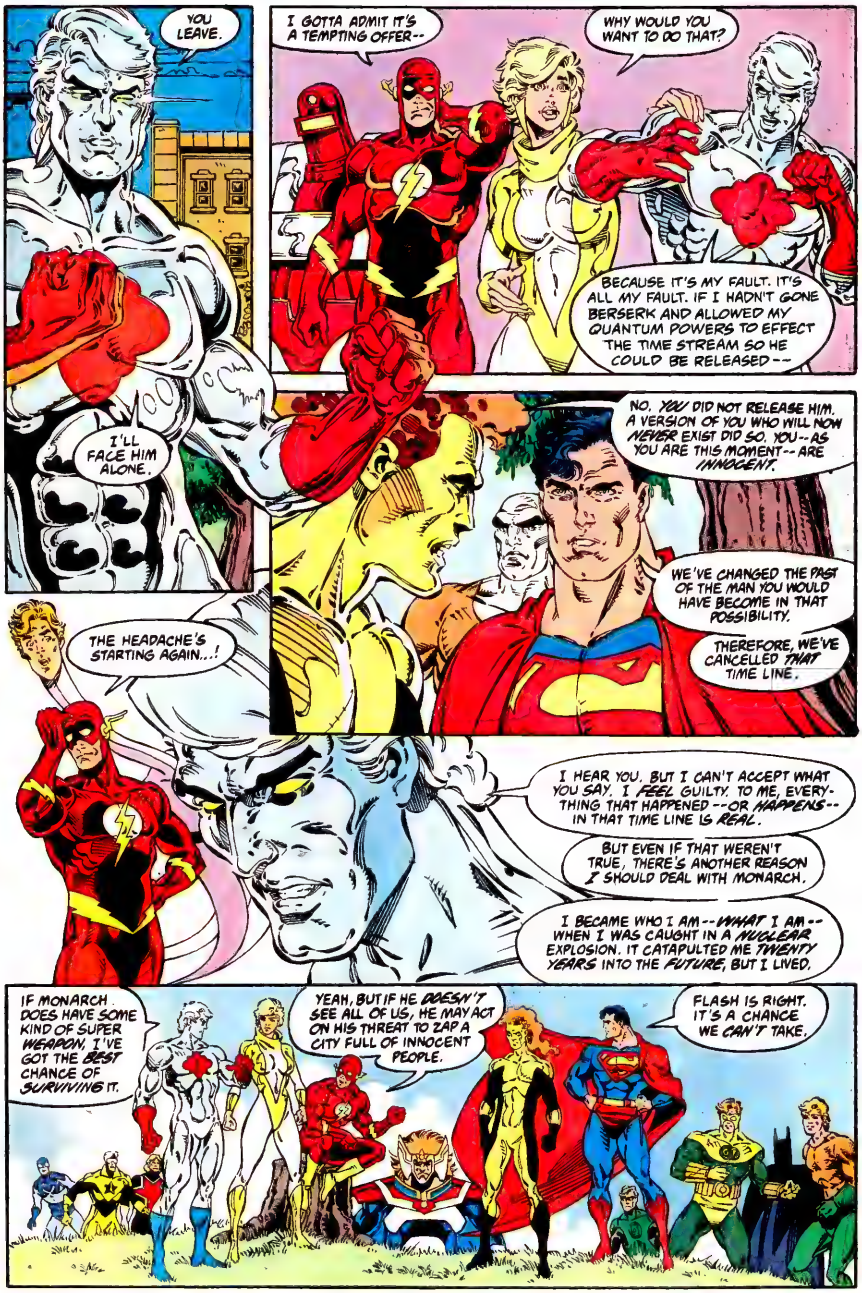

"WE DON'T WAN'T TO RUN INTO ANY OF THEM COSTUMED NUTCASES ROAMING THE CITY!"
THIS IS AMAZING. THERE ARE HEROES EVERYWHERE.
SOMETHING MUST BE UP TO HAVE MOBILIZED SO MANY OF THEM.
JUST BE CAREFUL NOT TO BE SEEN. THE WORLD ISN'T READY TO MEET THE TEEN TITANS YET.

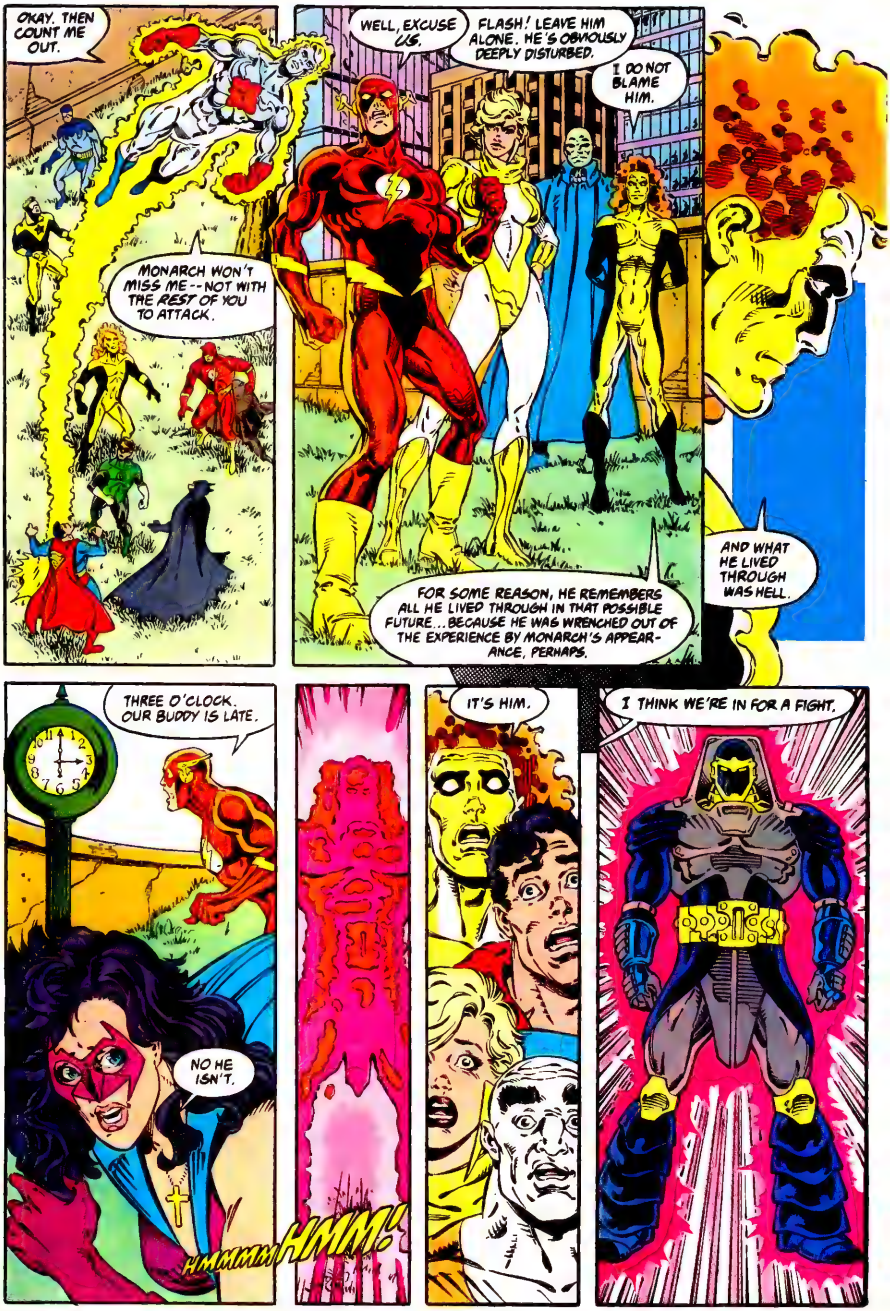
I MONITORED THEIR BROADCAST CHANNELS. SOMEONE NAMED MONARCH ISSUED A THREAT AGAINST METROPOLIS UNLESS THE HEROES MET HIM AT 3:00.
I DON'T LIKE THE SOUNDS OF THAT. WE MAY HAVE OUR OWN MISSION, BUT WE COULD STILL KEEP AN EYE OUT FOR THIS MONARCH -- JUST IN CASE THEY NEED HELP...

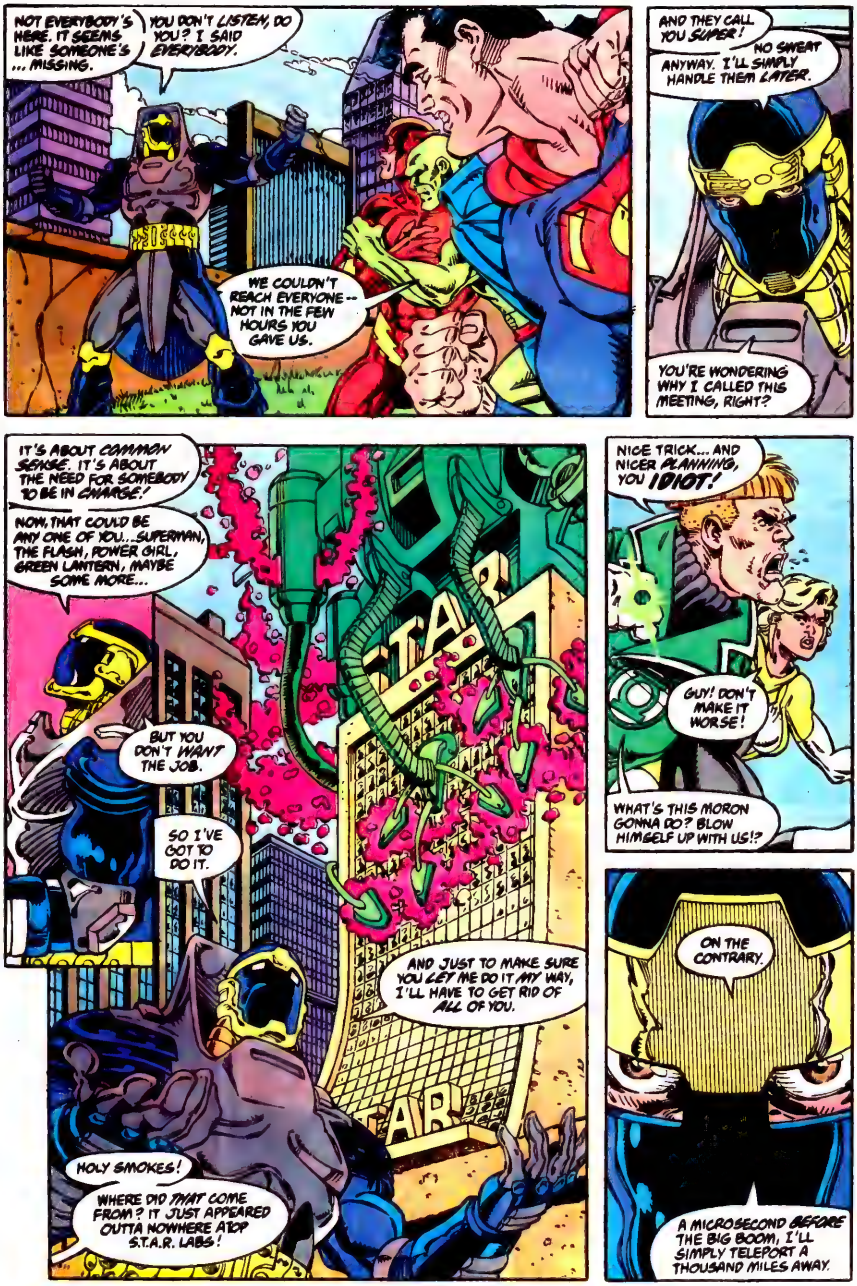
ALL CLEAR DOWN HERE.


THAT SECURES THIS BRIDGE. WE CAN START TO MOVE MORE OF THE POPULACE SAFELY ACROSS NOW.
WE'D BETTER HURRY. TIME IS RUNNING OUT.
DON'T WORRY. IF MONARCH SHOWS UP HE WON'T CATCH THE METAL MEN OFF GUARD!

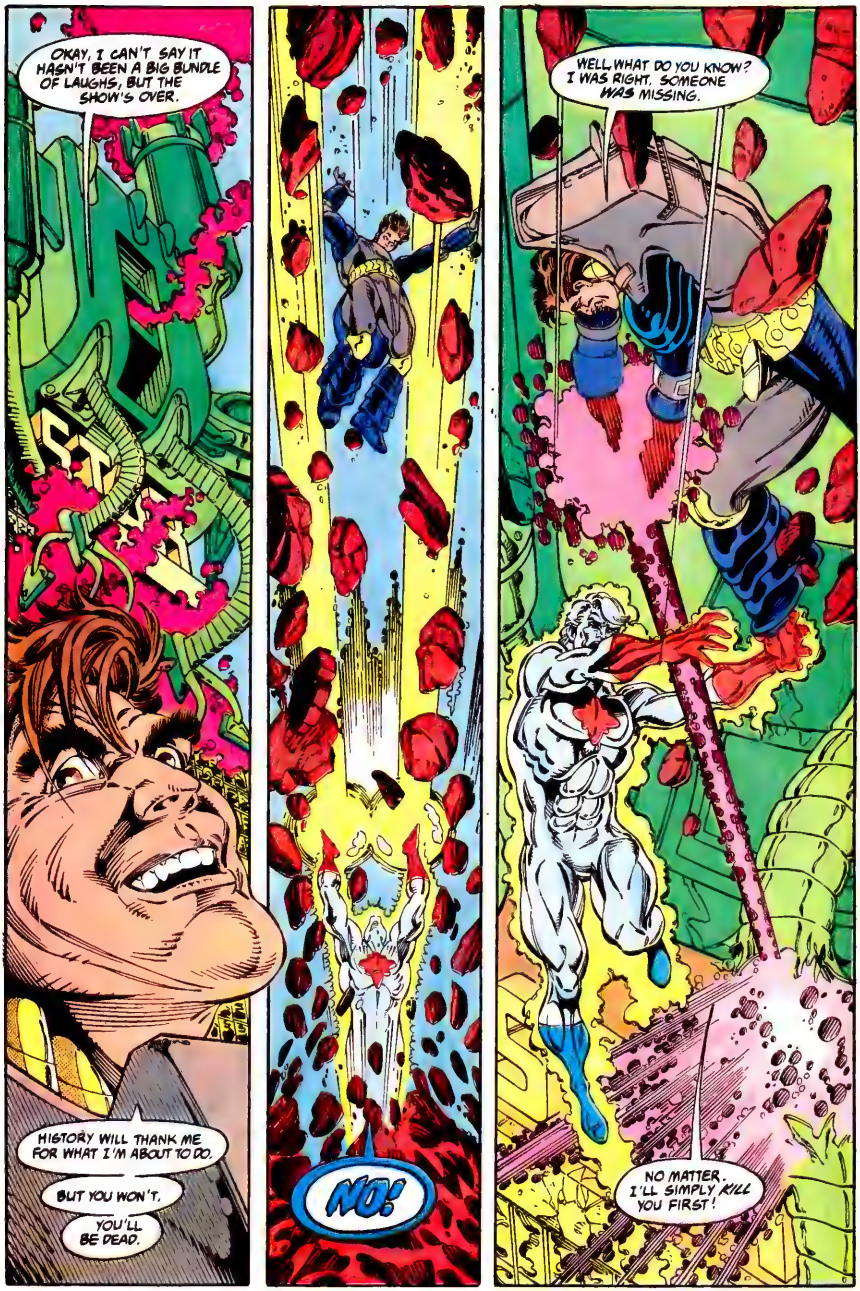

SHOULDN'T WE HELP WITH THE EVACUATION?
UNFORTUNATELY, WE CAN'T.
IT'S UP TO US TO STAY READY IN CASE OUR FRIEND MONARCH SHOWS UP AHEAD OF SCHEDULE.
GOOD POINT. WE'VE ONLY GOT FIVE MINUTES TILL THE TIME HE TOLD THE NEWS MEDIA THAT HE'D MEET US.
DO YOU THINK WE SHOULD HAVE GOTTEN A WELCOME MAT FOR HIM? SOME FLOWERS? CANDY?
CYANIDE?
FIRST BANK
2:55
ANY IDEA WHO HE IS? WAVERIDER ELIMINATED EVERY CANDIDATE--
NO, I DID NOT. AS I TOLD YOU, I MERELY EXPLORED POSSIBLE TIME LINES -- POSSIBLE.
THERE ARE MILLIONS OF OTHER POSSIBILITIES. ONE OF THEM WILL PROVE TO BE REALITY.
SO WE WAIT AND SEE WHO SHOWS UP.
I HAVE A BETTER SUGGESTION.

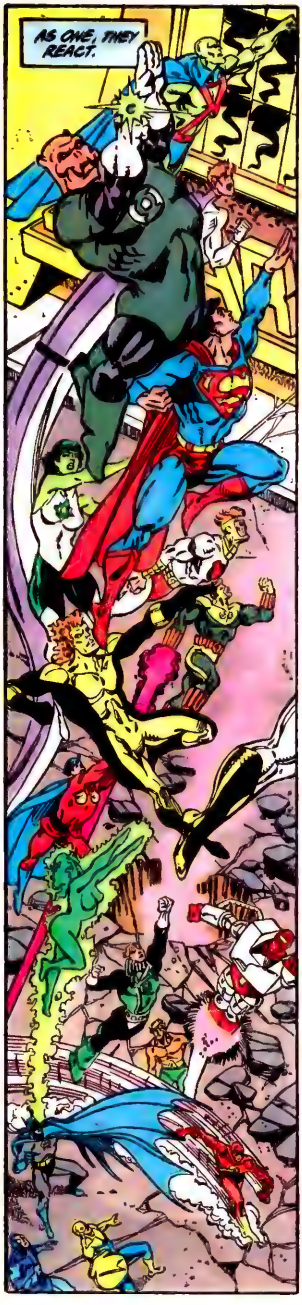

YOU LEAVE.
I'LL FACE HIM ALONE.
I GOTTA ADMIT IT'S A TEMPTING OFFER--
WHY WOULD YOU WANT TO DO THAT?
BECAUSE IT'S MY FAULT. IT'S ALL MY FAULT. IF I HADN'T GONE BERSERK AND ALLOWED MY QUANTUM POWERS TO EFFECT THE TIME STREAM SO HE COULD BE RELEASED--
NO. YOU DID NOT RELEASE HIM. A VERSION OF YOU WHO WILL NOW NEVER EXIST DID SO. YOU--AS YOU ARE THIS MOMENT--ARE INNOCENT.
WE'VE CHANGED THE PAST OF THE MAN YOU WOULD HAVE BECOME IN THAT POSSIBILITY.
THEREFORE, WE'VE CANCELLED THAT TIME LINE.
THE HEADACHE'S STARTING AGAIN...!
I HEAR YOU. BUT I CAN'T ACCEPT WHAT YOU SAY. I FEEL GUILTY. TO ME, EVERYTHING THAT HAPPENED--OR HAPPENS--IN THAT TIME LINE IS REAL.
BUT EVEN IF THAT WEREN'T TRUE, THERE'S ANOTHER REASON I SHOULD DEAL WITH MONARCH.
I BECAME WHO I AM--WHAT I AM--WHEN I WAS CAUGHT IN A NUCLEAR EXPLOSION. IT CATAPULTED ME TWENTY YEARS INTO THE FUTURE, BUT I LIVED.
IF MONARCH DOES HAVE SOME KIND OF SUPER WEAPON, I'VE GOT THE BEST CHANCE OF SURVIVING IT.
YEAH, BUT IF HE DOESN'T SEE ALL OF US, HE MAY ACT ON HIS THREAT TO ZAP A CITY FULL OF INNOCENT PEOPLE.
FLASH IS RIGHT. IT'S A CHANCE WE CAN'T TAKE.

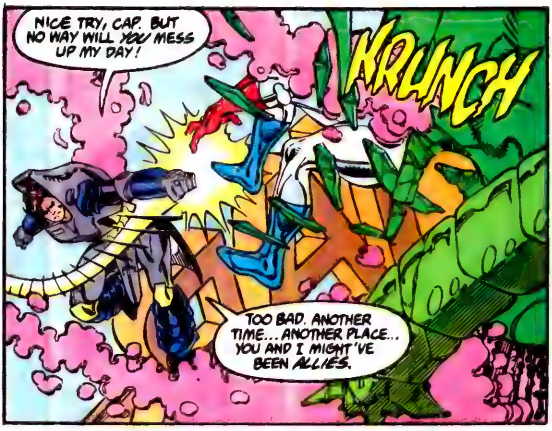

OKAY. THEN COUNT ME OUT.
MONARCH WON'T MISS ME--NOT WITH THE REST OF YOU TO ATTACK.
WELL, EXCUSE US,
FLASH! LEAVE HIM ALONE. HE'S OBVIOUSLY DEEPLY DISTURBED.
I DO NOT BLAME HIM.
FOR SOME REASON, HE REMEMBERS ALL HE LIVED THROUGH IN THAT POSSIBLE FUTURE...BECAUSE HE WAS WRENCHED OUT OF THE EXPERIENCE BY MONARCH'S APPEARANCE, PERHAPS.
AND WHAT HE LIVED THROUGH WAS HELL.
THREE O'CLOCK. OUR BUDDY IS LATE.
NO HE ISN'T.
HMMMMM
HMM!
IT'S HIM.
I THINK WE'RE IN FOR A FIGHT.

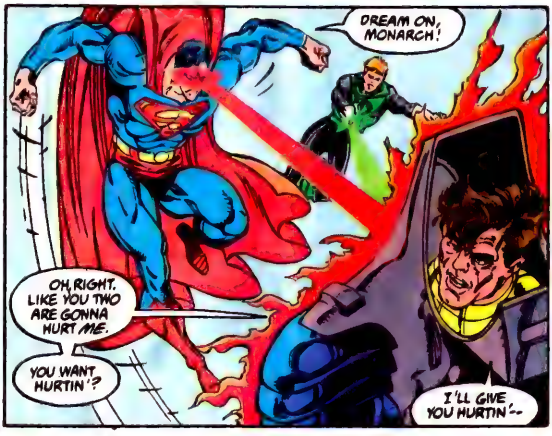

NOT EVERYBODY'S HERE. IT SEEMS LIKE SOMEONE'S ... MISSING.
YOU DON'T LISTEN, DO YOU? I SAID EVERYBODY.
WE COULDN'T REACH EVERYONE -- NOT IN THE FEW HOURS YOU GAVE US.
AND THEY CALL YOU SUPER!
NO SWEAT
ANYWAY. I'LL SIMPLY HANDLE THEM LATER.
YOU'RE WONDERING WHY I CALLED THIS MEETING, RIGHT?
IT'S ABOUT COMMON SENSE. IT'S ABOUT THE NEED FOR SOMEBODY TO BE IN CHARGE!
NOW, THAT COULD BE ANY ONE OF YOU...SUPERMAN, THE FLASH, POWER GIRL, GREEN LANTERN, MAYBE SOME MORE...
BUT YOU DON'T WANT THE JOB.
SO I'VE GOT TO DO IT.
AND JUST TO MAKE SURE YOU LET ME DO IT MY WAY, I'LL HAVE TO GET RID OF ALL OF YOU.
HOLY SMOKES!
WHERE DID THAT COME FROM? IT JUST APPEARED OUTTA NOWHERE AND S.T.A.R. LABS!
NICE TRICK... AND NICER PLANNING, YOU IDIOT!
GUY! DON'T MAKE IT WORSE!
WHAT'S THIS MORON GONNA DO? BLOW HIMSELF UP WITH US!?
ON THE CONTRARY.
A MICROSECOND BEFORE THE BIG BOOM, I'LL SIMPLY TELEPORT A THOUSAND MILES AWAY.

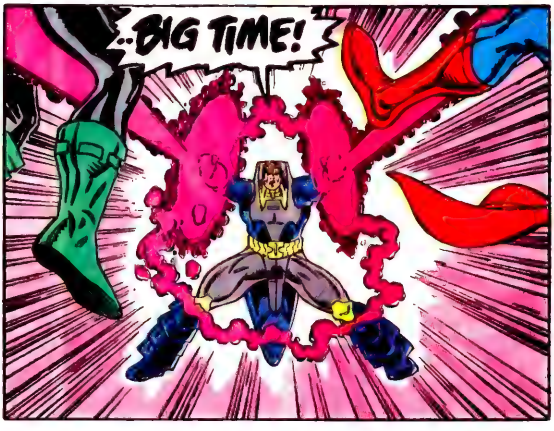
HOW DO YOU KNOW THAT THING'LL EVEN WORK?
WHAT MAKES YOU THINK WE'LL LET IT WORK?
WE'VE GOT SOME PRETTY POWERFUL PEOPLE HERE TO STOP YOU!
HE--THE OTHER ONE, THE OTHER ME... HE SPENT YEARS STUDYING YOU... YOUR WEAKNESSES, USING A COMPUTER SO BIG IT TAKES UP EIGHTY MILES OF THE MOON'S SURFACE.
AND IF YOU TRY ANYTHING CUTE, I'LL WIPE OUT OTHER CITIES AS WELL. I NEVER LIKED COLUMBUS MUCH.
I--HE--LEFT ME DETAILED INSTRUCTIONS--
--ABOUT THE TELEPORTER, THE BOMB, EVERYTHING.
YOU THINK I EVEN CARE-- WHEN YOU'RE THREATENING TO DESTROY MY CITY?!
I'LL STOP YOU WITH MY DYING BREATH, MONARCH!
SMASH!
OOOPS. NOW YOU'VE LET THE CAT OUT OF THE BAG.
HANK HALL?!? WAVERIDER WAS RIGHT! HE IS ONE OF US!
HE WAS REALLY ONE OF US, FLASH! HE WAS A TITAN!
A FRIEND!
I WAS HANK HALL. I WAS HAWK.
I AM MONARCH.
BET YOU'RE PRETTY SURPRISED BY THIS TURN OF EVENTS, HUH?

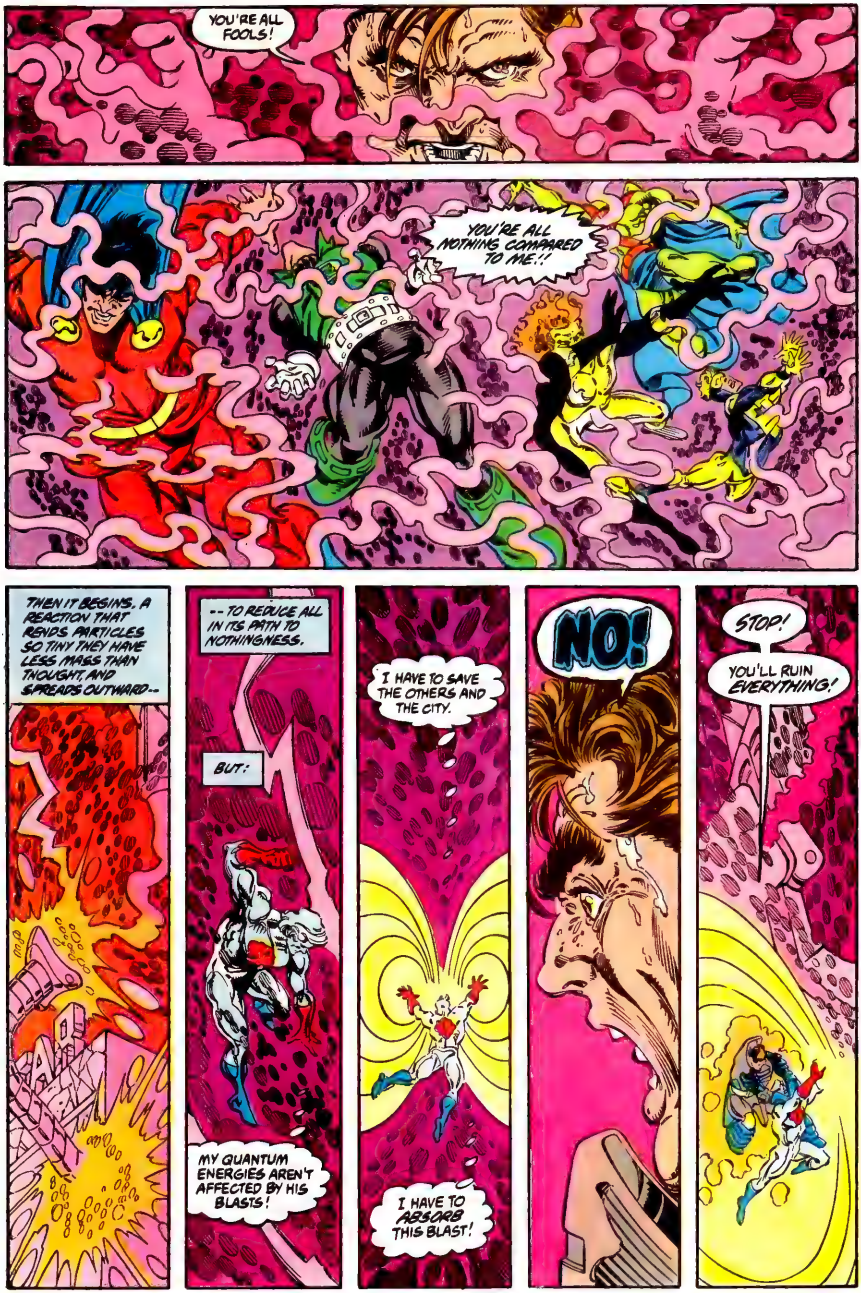

OKAY, I CAN'T SAY IT HASN'T BEEN A BIG BUNDLE OF LAUGHS, BUT THE SHOW'S OVER.
HISTORY WILL THANK ME FOR WHAT I'M ABOUT TO DO.
BUT YOU WON'T.
YOU'LL BE DEAD.
NO!
WELL, WHAT DO YOU KNOW? I WAS RIGHT. SOMEONE WAS MISSING.
NO MATTER. I'LL SIMPLY KILL YOU FIRST!

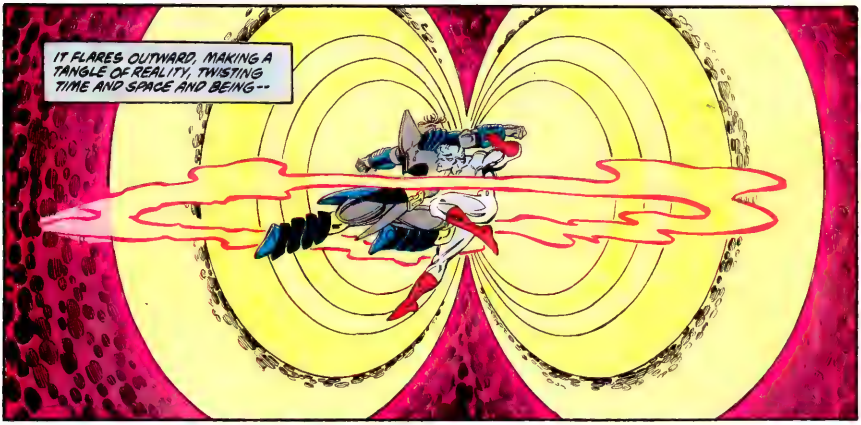

AS ONE, THEY REACT.

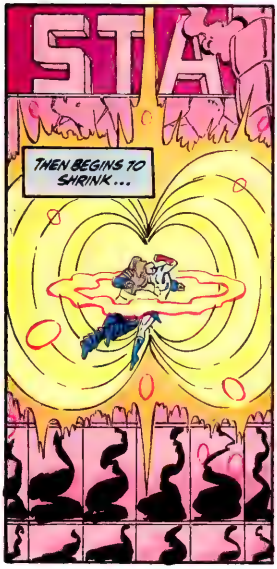

NICE TRY, CAP. BUT NO WAY WILL YOU MESS UP MY DAY!
KRUNCH
TOO BAD. ANOTHER TIME... ANOTHER PLACE... YOU AND I MIGHT'VE BEEN ALLIES.

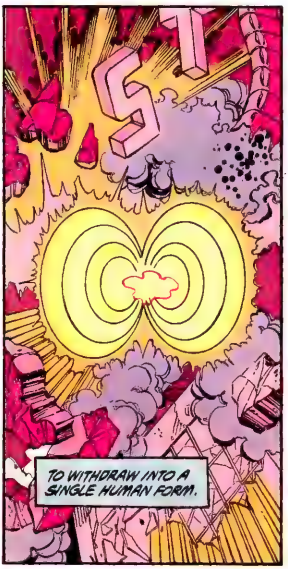

DREAM ON, MONARCH!
OH, RIGHT. LIKE YOU TWO ARE GONNA HURT ME.
YOU WANT HURTIN'?
I'LL GIVE YOU HURTIN'--

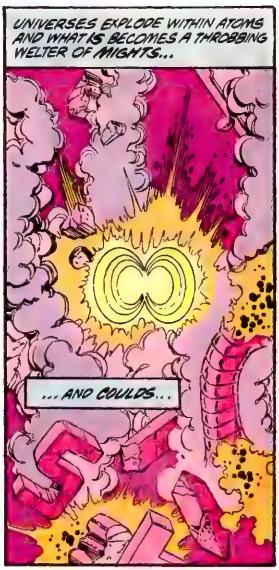

..BIG TIME!


YOU'RE ALL FOOLS!
YOU'RE ALL NOTHING COMPARED TO ME.!!
THEN IT BEGINS. A REACTION THAT REVOS ARTICLES SO TINY THEY HAVE LESS MASS THAN THOUGHT, AND SPREADS OUTWARD--
-- TO REDUCE ALL IN ITS PATH TO NOTHINGNESS.
BUT:
MY QUANTUM ENERGIES AREN'T AFFECTED BY HIS BLASTS!
I HAVE TO SAVE THE OTHERS AND THE CITY.
I HAVE TO ABSORB THIS BLAST!
NO!
STOP!
YOU'LL RUIN EVERYTHING!

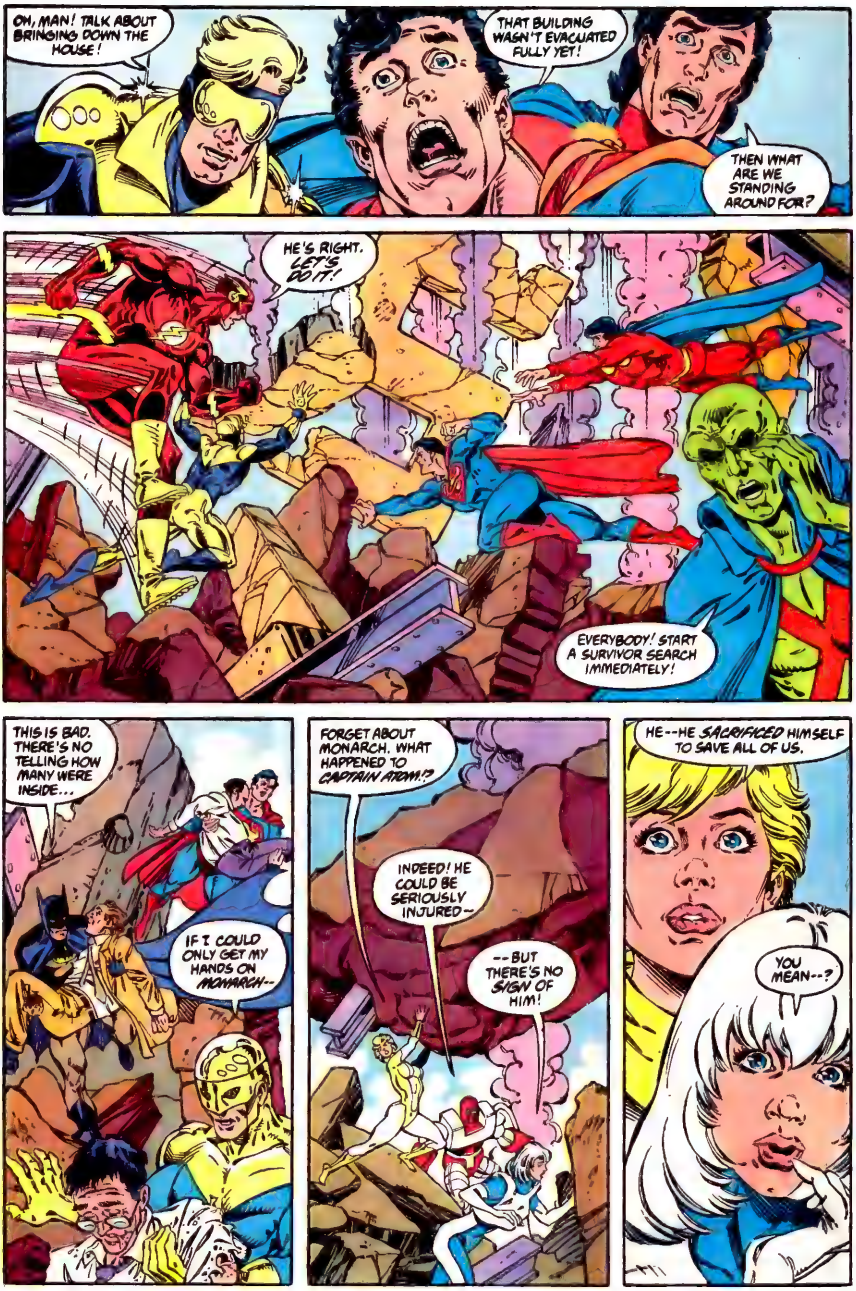

IT FLARES OUTWARD, MAKING A TANGLE OF REALITY, TWISTING TIME AND SPACE AND BEING--


THEN BEGINS TO SHRINK...


TO WITHDRAW INTO A SINGLE HUMAN FORM.


UNIVERSES EXPLODE WITHIN ATOMS AND WHAT IS BECOMES A THROBBING WELTER OF MIGHTS...
...AND COULDS...

...AND NEVERS.


OH, MAN! TALK ABOUT BRINGING DOWN THE HOUSE!
THAT BUILDING WASN'T EVACUATED FULLY YET!
THEN WHAT ARE WE STANDING AROUND FOR?
HE'S RIGHT. LET'S DO IT!
EVERYBODY! START A SURVIVOR SEARCH IMMEDIATELY!
THIS IS BAD. THERE'S NO TELLING HOW MANY WERE INSIDE...
IF I COULD ONLY GET MY HANDS ON MONARCH--
FORGET ABOUT MONARCH. WHAT HAPPENED TO CAPTAIN ATOM!?
INDEED! HE COULD BE SERIOUSLY INJURED--
--BUT THERE'S NO SIGN OF HIM!
HE--HE SACRIFICED HIMSELF TO SAVE ALL OF US.
YOU MEAN--?

THEY'RE--
THEY'RE GONE!
BUT WHERE?
COULD THEY HAVE SURVIVED?
I KNOW.
FROM THAT BLAST?! NO WAY.
HELP
HEY, SOMEONE'S HERE IN THE SUBWAY TUNNEL.
HIS NAME IS MATTHEW RYDER...
--A VERY FRIGHTENED BOY WHO'S JUST TURNED EIGHT.
SO AT LAST I KNOW.
OH?
KNOW WHAT?
THE ANSWER TO A QUESTION THAT HAS... THAT WILL TORMENT ME FOR THE NEXT FORTY YEARS.

ELSEWHEN:
HE HAS BEEN STANDING FOR WHAT MAY BE HOURS, OR MERE SECONDS.
THE SUNLIGHT IS WARM AND SOOTHING, AND THE AIR IS FAR, FAR SWEETER THAN ANY HE HAS EVER TASTED.
HE HAS BEEN BURDENED BY THE GUILT OF A GREAT SIN. NOW, HE HAS ATONED FOR IT.
HE FEELS CALM AND FREE.
FINALLY, HE SPEAKS, TO LEARN IF HE CAN:
I'M ALIVE!
HIS GAZE DROPS--
--AND WHAT HE SEES TELLS HIM THAT ANOTHER HAS MADE THIS STRANGE JOURNEY WITH HIM.
THEN HE HEARS A WHISPER OF MOVEMENT--
--AND IS SUDDENLY FILLED WITH AWE AND JOY..
THE END? NOT QUITE!
THE SAGA CONTINUES IN ARMAGEDDON: THE ALIEN AGENDA! ON SALE NEXT MONTH!

"... IT'S HARD TO IMAGINE ANYTHING WORSE!"

WELL, I MAY HAVE FOUND THE CAUSE OF YOUR TROUBLE, JOE.

THAT LAST BATTERY OF TESTS SHOWS THAT YOU HAVE THE *META-GENE!*

I HAVE THE *WHAT?!*

META-GENE... IT'S A RARE GENETIC QUIRK. USUALLY LIES DORMANT UNTIL TRIGGERED BY EXTREME PHYSIOLOGICAL DISTRESS... RADIATION, RADICAL CHEMICAL IMBALANCES... THAT SORT OF THING.

I KNOW... AND THE META-GENE CAN MAKE PEOPLE "SUPER!" BUT... I HAVE IT? YOU'RE *SURE?*

OH, YES.

GRANTED, IT'S NOT EASY TO DETECT, BUT... *EH?*

DOC, WHAT'S HAPPENING?

RRUBOOM!

EARTHQUAKE! OMIGOD, IT'S ANOTHER EARTHQUAKE!!

REMAIN CALM--PLEASE! PROCEED TO THE EXITS IN AN ORDERLY FASHION!

UH-BUH-BUH

DOC, I DON'T KNOW MY WAY AROUND HERE WITH THE LIGHTS OFF... WHICH WAY TO THE EXITS?

DOC?

AROO-AROO-AROO

OH, GREAT, HE'S ZONING OUT ON ME!

THOOM

THOOM

FUNNY... THIS DOESN'T *FEEL* LIKE THE LAST EARTHQUAKES WE HAD. AND IT *SOUNDS* MORE LIKE--

"--SOMEONE INTO *HEAVY CONSTRUCTION* IS UP ON THE ROOF!"

COPPER, LEAD AND SOLID STEEL FLY ABOUT AT THE ARMORED MAN'S MEREST GESTURE, FORMING ENORMOUS COMPONENTS--

--ASSEMBLING THEMSELVES INTO A MASSIVE ENGINE OF DESTRUCTION ... THE MOST POWERFUL THIS WORLD HAS YET SEEN!

ITS CREATOR ALREADY POSSESSES POWERS AND ABILITIES BEYOND THOSE OF MORTAL BEINGS ... BUT THEY ARE NOT ENOUGH.

ONCE HE WAS ONE OF OUR WORLD'S MIGHTY SUPER-HEROES.

NOW HIS GOAL IS TO BECOME NOTHING LESS THAN THE EARTH'S ABSOLUTE MONARCH!*

* THE MYSTERIOUS ORIGIN OF MONARCH IS RECOUNTED IN ARMAGEDDON 2001 # 2 ... ON SALE NOW!

HE HAS COME HERE TO FULFILL HIS DESTINY.

HIS PLAN IS SIMPLE: TO LEVEL THE GREAT CITY OF METROPOLIS...

S.T.A.I.

... AND, IN THE PROCESS, DESTROY THOSE WHO WOULD MOST ACTIVELY CHALLENGE HIS RULE...

...HIS OWN FORMER ALLIES!

MONARCH!

SO! LET THE BATTLE BEGIN...

BOOM K-TOOM

GEEZ, NOW IT SOUNDS LIKE THERE'S A WAR GOING ON OUTSIDE!

DOC? :KOF-KOF: WHERE ARE YOU?

WHERE AM I... AND HOW DO I GET OUT? I'M SO TURNED AROUND... AND IT'S SO DARK... I'M NOT EVEN SURE I'M ON THE SAME FLOOR ANYMORE!

HEY! OVER HERE...

...YOU GOTTA HELP ME!

SURE, WHAT CAN I--? YOW!

KA-THOOM

WHAT'S THAT?!

WHO KNOWS? LOOK, I'M STUCK IN THIS... TEST CHAMBER!

I CAN GET US BOTH TO SAFETY, IF YOU'LL FREE ME!

HOW DO I DO THAT?

THERE'S AN EMERGENCY OVERRIDE SWITCH ON THE MAIN CONSOLE... YEAH, THAT'S IT!

HURRY! GIVE IT A GOOD, HARD PULL AND THEN...

EEEYAAAA!!!

AS THE MASSIVE GROUNDING CABLES OF MONARCH'S EQUIPMENT MAKE CONTACT WITH THE CONSOLE --

--ENERGIES BEYOND HUMAN KEN SURGE THROUGH THE PARASITE AND HIS INTENDED VICTIM!

BUT, WHILE THEY STAND TRANSFIXED AND HELPLESS WITHIN...

...OUTSIDE, THE TIDE OF THE BATTLE TURNS TO FAVOR OUR WORLD'S DEFENDERS!*

IN A SUDDEN IMPLOSION OF ENERGY, THE ENGINE OF DEATH IS CONSUMED AND-- APPARENTLY-- MONARCH WITH IT!

THE EARTH'S TRUE HEROES HAVE PREVAILED.

METROPOLIS STILL STANDS.

BUT VICTORY HAS NOT BEEN WON WITHOUT SOME COST.

* THOSE INTERESTED IN THE COURSE OF THIS WAR MAY WISH TO PERUSE THE AFOREMENTIONED ARMAGEDDON SPECIAL.

EVEN BEFORE THE DUST HAS SETTLED, EARTH'S CHAMPIONS AGAIN SPRING INTO ACTION -- THIS TIME AS RESCUERS...

EASY DOES IT. DON'T WORRY... WE'LL HAVE YOU OUT IN NO TIME.

BROKEN COLLARBONE... FOUR CRACKED RIBS... NO SIGNS OF INTERNAL BLEEDING, THANK GOD. SHE'S COMING AROUND...

IT'S AT TIMES LIKE THESE THAT I MOST ENVY HIM AND J'ONN AND THEIR STRENGTH. STILL, THERE'S MORE THAN ENOUGH WORK HERE FOR US ALL!

IT'S OKAY, MA'AM. YOU'RE GOING TO BE ALL RIGHT. TRY NOT TO MOVE.

O-OKAY.

GARDNER, WHAT'RE YOU DOING?

WHAT'S IT LOOK LIKE, GOLD? I'M SEARCHIN' FOR SIGNS OF MONARCH!

IF THAT #*%$!! TURNCOAT DIDN'T BLOW UP, I'M GONNA PUNCH HIM INTO THE NEXT DECADE!

PUT A HOLD ON THE REVENGE, GUY--

"--THERE ARE PEOPLE HERE WHO NEED OUR ATTENTION A WHOLE LOT MORE!

"IF WE DON'T WORK FAST, WE'RE LIABLE TO LOSE SOME!"

UH-UNGH!

WHA' WUZZAT?

WHY IZZIT SO CLOUDY ALLUVA SUDDEN?

GOTTA... GET OUTTA HERE...

...'FORE IT STARTS TO RAIN YEAH...

"... BETTER GO HOME."

RONDO

FINALLY.

I THOUGHT I'D NEVER GET HERE.

HOME SWEET HOME.

WHY'S EVERYTHING SO BLURRY?

HEY, PROJECTIONIST ... FOCUS!

The Screen's Newest Monster Of Terror ...

THE CREEPER!

UNIVERSAL presents

HOUSE OF HORRORS

B.W. COGGINS

THE SHADOW

HOT FROM RADIO AND MAGAZINE!

VICTOR JORY

A COLUMBIA CHAPTER PLAY

THE FIGHTING DEVIL DOGS

Republic SERIAL

12

EPISODE 1

WHOA... DIZZY, TOO!

BETTER SIT DOWN 'FORE I FALL DOWN.

RONDO

¡WOOF! THAT'S BETTER...

WHA' HAPPENED ANYWAY? AN' WHY AM I SO OUT OF IT?

WISH I COULD R'MEMBER. FEEL SO BEAT, THOUGH...

This Fri Tivoli

RONDO

CURSE OF THE ATOMIC SKULL

A NATIONAL FILMS SERIAL

WITH LEE POWELL HERMAN BRIX ELEANOR HART

This Fri Tivoli

...MEBBE... TOMORROW...

ZZZZZZZZ

NEW SOUTH WALES, AUSTRALIA.

SHEEP COUNTRY...

KELLEY, WILL YOU CALM DOWN?!

I AM CALM... PERFECTLY CALM!

WHAT MAKES YOU THINK I'M NOT CALM?!

YOU HAVEN'T STOPPED PACING SINCE WE GOT HERE.

MAYBE I LIKE TO PACE!

WELL, STOP, WILL YOU?

YOU'RE MAKING ME NERVOUS!

DON'T START WITH ME, SYDNEY HAPPERSEN! I NEVER ASKED TO BE PART OF THIS MISSING HEIR BUSINESS! YOU SHANG-HAIED ME OUT HERE TO THE BACKSIDE OF NOWHERE!

I'M SORRY, KELLEY, BUT IT HAD TO BE THIS WAY! AFTER LUTHOR'S WILL WAS FOUND, NAMING YOU AS THE BOY'S MOTHER--!

WHOSE MOTHER? Y' MEAN MINE?

OMIGOD... YOU... YOU'RE...

LEX LUTHOR THE SECOND, IF YA PLEASE...

HAH-HA, I CAN'T TELL YA HOW GOOD IT IS AT LAST TO HOLD YA!

I... DIDN'T EXPECT YOU TO BE SO... TALL.

...AN' EVEN IF YA DON'T!

AN' YOU'RE GRETCHEN KELLEY-- ME LONG-LOST MUM!

THAT'S THANKS IN PART TO YOU, MUM... GOOD GENES, DON'T YA KNOW... YOURS AN' POP'S!

PUT 'ER THERE, HAPPERSEN. GOOD TO SEE YA AGAIN!

Y-YES... YOU, TOO.

WELL... AH ... WHAT DO WE ALL DO NOW?

WHY, THAT'S *OBVIOUS*, IDN'T IT? WE GET READY FOR MY AMERICAN DEBUT!

I HAVE AN *EMPIRE* TO CLAIM, AFTER ALL...

"... AND A CITY TO RESTORE!"

... LYLE DEAN REPORTING FOR WGBS NEWS. IT HAS BEEN 18 HOURS SINCE S.T.A.R. LABS' DOWNTOWN HIGH-RISE WAS LEVELED.

SOME 80 PEOPLE HAVE BEEN RESCUED FROM THE RUBBLE. TWELVE BODIES HAVE BEEN REMOVED FROM THE SCENE, FIVE MORE REMAIN TO BE IDENTIFIED. AND STILL THE SEARCH CONTINUES...

OVER HERE... I NEED A HAND.

NO PROBLEM, SUPERMAN! I HAVE HIM!

BE CAREFUL WITH HIM, FATE-- HE'S SUFFERING FROM SHOCK AND EXPOSURE.

DOCTOR FATE IS ALWAYS CAREFUL.

SUPERMAN... WHY DON'T YOU TAKE A BREAK? YOU'VE BEEN GOING AT THIS ALL NIGHT AND ALL MORNING!

IS EVERYONE ACCOUNTED FOR, PROFESSOR?

WELL... NO...

THEN THE JOB'S NOT DONE. OTHERS MAY STILL BE ALIVE... TRAPPED UNDER THE WRECKAGE.

WHY DON'T YA TAKE THE GEEZER'S ADVICE? MY RING HASN'T DETECTED ANY MORE SIGNS OF LIFE UNDER THIS MESS...

...AND IF YOU CAN'T SEE OR HEAR ANY, I'D SAY WE'VE MADE OUR LAST RESCUE.

THERE'S PLENTY OF LEAD SHIELDING IN THIS "MESS," GARDNER... IT BLOCKS MY VISION. INSULATION IN THE WRECKAGE COULD HIDE A LOT OF SOUND.

NONE OF US ARE ALL-SEEING OR ALL-KNOWING.

I'LL SIFT THROUGH EVERY CUBIC INCH OF RUBBLE, IF THERE'S EVEN THE SLIGHTEST CHANCE THAT ONE MORE LIFE MIGHT BE SAVED!

UH?

GIVE IT A REST, S-MAN! THERE'S NO ONE HERE LEFT TO SAVE!

EMIL? WHAT ARE YOU SAYING?

THE NAME'S NOT EMIL... IT'S BRAND... *BOSTON* BRAND!

THERE'S A NEW MIND CONTROLLING THAT BODY... LET ITS IMAGE BE REVEALED!

HEY, *NICE TRICK*, DOC! THIS IS WHAT I LOOKED LIKE, ALL RIGHT... WHEN I WAS WITH THE CIRCUS... AND STILL ALIVE AN' KICKIN'!

YOU... ARE DEADMAN?

YEAH, I'M JUST A POOR WANDERIN' *GHOST*, DOING MY PART TO KEEP THINGS IN BALANCE.

I JUST WISH I'D GOTTEN HERE IN TIME TO HELP PREVENT THIS.

I'VE PASSED THROUGH THE ENTIRE WRECKAGE. TAKE IT FROM A GUY WHO'S BEEN THERE... NO ONE ELSE IS COMING OUT OF IT ALIVE.

SORRY, FOLKS. SEE YA AROUND...

EH? WHAT?

WHAT IN THE WORLD IS GOING ON?

WE'LL TELL YA ALL ABOUT IT LATER, POPS!

HEY, BIG BLUE--!

LET HIM BE. THIS IS HIS CITY...

... HE TAKES SUCH TRAGEDY VERY PERSONALLY.

"I FEEL FOR HIS LOSS."

MY GOD... MY HAIR!!

WHAT HAPPENED TO MY HAIR?! AND WHY AM I... GLOWING?

WHOA, JOEY... GET HOLD OF YOURSELF... YOU COULDN'T HAVE BEEN GLOWING... IT MUST'VE BEEN YOUR IMAGINATION.

YEAH... OR MAYBE AN *HALLUCINATION*... A SIDE-EFFECT FROM SOME MEDICATION I GOT AT S.T.A.R.

WAIT A MINUTE... *DID* I GET ANY MEDICATION AT S.T.A.R.?

WHAT HAPPENED TO ME THERE?

WHY CAN'T I REMEMBER? IS MEMORY LOSS PART OF MY MYSTERY AILMENT OR DUE TO SOME TREATMENT?

♪ "DOCTOR, DOCTOR, GIVE ME THE NEWS..." ♪

♪ BOOP-BEE-DEEP ♪ WE'RE SORRY...

...THE NUMBER YOU HAVE CALLED... IS OUT-OF-SERVICE ♪

S.T.A.R. LABS? OUT OF SERVICE?!

@#*%!!

KER-RACK!

HOLEE--! THAT DESK TOP... WAS SOLID OAK.

I GOTTA GO SEE THAT SPECIALIST.

DON'T WANT PEOPLE STARING AT MY DOME... IF I WEAR MY CYCLING DUDS, NO ONE'LL SEE--! A LONG BIKE RIDE'LL DO ME SOME GOOD ANYWAY!

WHAT *ELSE* HAVE I FORGOTTEN? WHAT'S TODAY... FRIDAY? YEAH...

...I CAN'T GET SICK NOW! FILM SERIAL FESTIVAL OPENS TONIGHT AT THE TIVOLI... BEEN WAITING MONTHS FOR THAT.

I'LL FINALLY SEE MY ALL-TIME FAVORITE SERIAL ON THE BIG SCREEN!

I'VE WORN OUT TWO TAPES, WATCHING *THE CURSE OF THE ATOMIC--!*

HEY! WHAT'RE YOU DOING DOWN HERE? THAT'S MY BIKE!

YA MEAN, "WAS" YOUR BIKE!

NO WAY--THAT COST ME PLENTY! DROP IT AND CLEAR OUT, OR I CALL THE COPS!

YOU THREATENIN' US? *HUH? YOU THREATENIN' US?!*

NOBODY THREATENS US!

HEY, DON'T--!

SHADDUP!

WHUD

KRAK

WOK

AAHHKK!

STOP!

HELP!

THAK

AIN'T NOBODY GONNA HELP YOU, BUTTHEAD!

YO, SAVE SOME FUN FOR ME!

FUN?

YOU THINK THIS IS *FUN*?!

I'LL SHOW YOU FUN!!

WHU--?

YAAAA!

LOOK... LOOK WHAT YOU'VE DONE TO ME!

DID YOU THINK YOU'D GET AWAY WITH THIS?

DO YOU HAVE ANY IDEA WHOM YOU'RE DEALING WITH? DO YOU?!

WE DIDN'T HIT HIM HARD ENOUGH! NOW HE'S GONE BUGHOUSE!

YOUR HENCHMEN CANNOT SAVE YOU FROM MY CURSE!

W-WHAT'RE YOU DOIN'?

NO! HELP!! HELP MEEEE!

MITCH!

OMIGOD.

...TO YOUR EVERLASTING HORROR, YOU SHALL FEEL MY POWER!

MOVE IT! NOBODY'S FRYIN' ME EXTRA CRISPY!

COWARDS... THEY FIGHT AND RUN. I'LL SHOW THEM...

WRAM!

...SHOW THEM ALL!

SCREECH!

HEY! WATCH WHERE YER GOIN', YA STUMBLEBUM! YA WANNA GET YERSELF KILT?

WHAT... DID YOU CALL... ME?

A STUMBLEBUM -- WHICH IS WHATCHA ARE!

WHY? YA WANNA MAKE SOMETHIN' OF IT?

MAKE SOMETHING... OF THIS!

MOTHER MARY--!

...A-A-AN' THEN, H-HE JUST GRABBED THE FRONT OF THE CAB... LIKE IT WAS A *TOY!*

HIS FACE... IT WAS *HORRIBLE*... IT WAS *GLOWIN'!*

I SWEAR... I AIN'T HAD A DROP ALL DAY... NOT EVEN A BEER!

IT'S OKAY... WE BELIEVE YOU. NO BOTTLE DID THIS!

TROUBLE, OFFICER?

SUPERMAN! YEAH...

...AND I'M REAL GLAD TO SEE YOU. THIS SOUNDS LIKE THE SORTA THING YOU'D HANDLE A LOT BETTER'N I WOULD--!

SHORTLY...

...AND YOU THINK THERE'S A CONNECTION WITH THE BODY FOUND IN THE APARTMENT BASEMENT?

IF THERE ISN'T, WE MAY HAVE *TWO* SUPER-MENACES ON THE LOOSE! THE CORONER SAID THE VICTIM ALMOST LOOKED *MICROWAVED!*

DEATH... THE GUY LOOKED JUST LIKE DEATH!

HEY, WE JUST GOT A REPORT ON OUR SUSPECT...

"... HE WAS SPOTTED ABOUT TWELVE BLOCKS OVER... BREAKING INTO THE OLD TIVOLI THEATER.

"THE SPECIAL CRIMES UNIT'S ALREADY ON THE SCENE..."

CURSE OF THE ATOMIC SKULL

INSPECTOR TURPIN!

...YEAH, THE "WEIRDIE" BARRICADED HIMSELF INSIDE.

MIND IF I GO IN AFTER HIM?

BE MY GUEST...

CURSE OF THE ATOMIC SK

"...GOD KNOWS WHAT HE'S DOIN' IN THERE."

EXIT

EXIT

LOOK... LOOK AT WHAT YOU HAVE DONE TO ME!

DID YOU THINK THAT YOU WOULD GET AWAY WITH THIS?

DO YOU HAVE ANY IDEA WHOM YOU'RE DEALING WITH? DO YOU?!

AM-AM-AM-AM!

YOUR HENCHMEN CANNOT SAVE YOU FROM MY CURSE!

WHO... WHO ARE YOU?

WHAT MANNER OF CREATURE ARE YOU?!

BEFORE THE EXPERIMENT, I WAS AN ORDINARY MAN...

NOW I POSSESS THE ULTIMATE POWER...

...AND THE ULTIMATE CURSE!

WHAT?!

NOW I AM THE ATOMIC SKULL!

AND TO YOUR EVERLASTING HORROR, YOU SHALL FEEL MY POWER!

DON'T MISS NEXT WEEK'S THRILL-PACKED CHAPTER: FLAMING DEATH!

IN SUPERMAN: THE MAN OF STEEL #5

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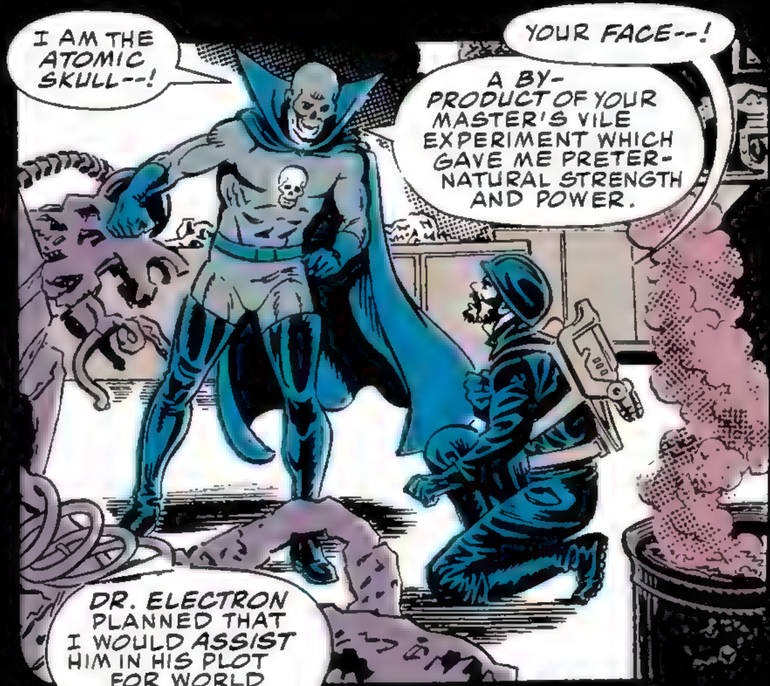
G-6931

THE CURSE OF THE ATOMIC SKULL

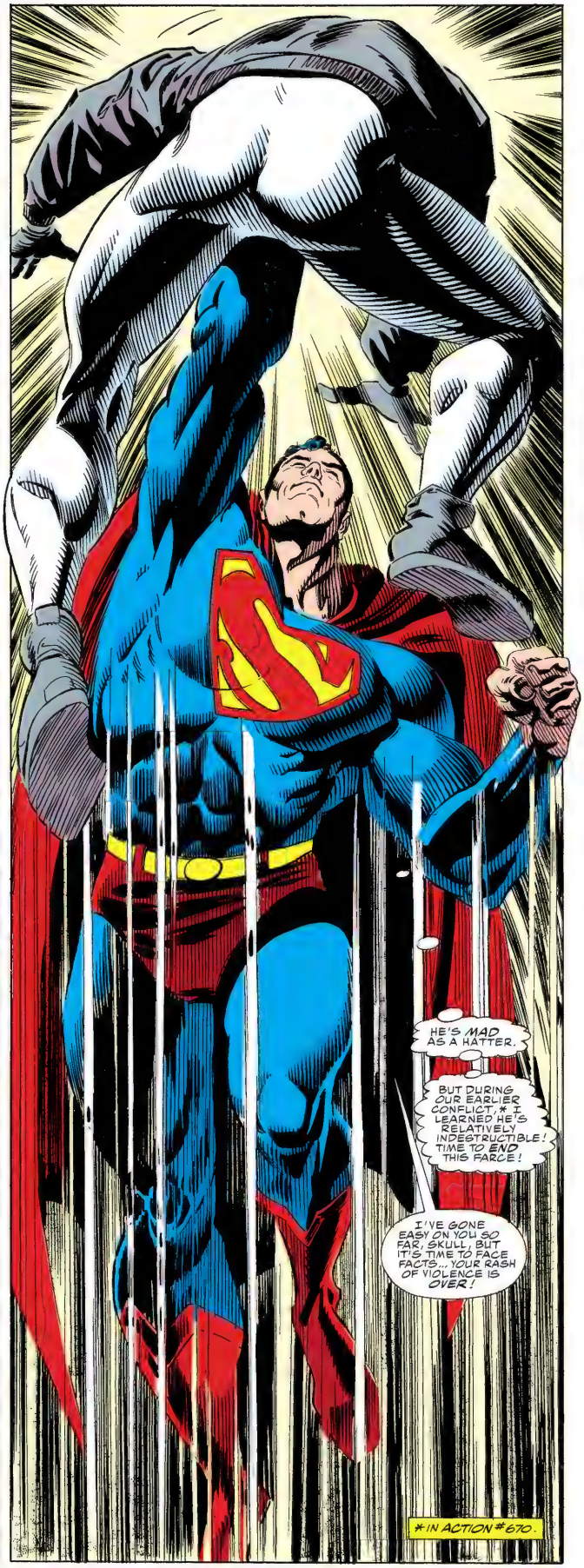
SCREENPLAY ..... LOUISE SIMONSON
CINEMATOGRAPHY ..... CURT SWAN & JON BOGDANOVE
SPECIAL EFFECTS ..... DENNIS JANKE
SOUND TECHNICIAN ..... BILL OAKLEY
TECHNICOLORIST ..... GLENN WHITMORE
ASSOCIATE PRODUCER ..... DAN THORSLAND
PRODUCER ..... MIKE CARLIN

– SPECIAL THANKS TO JOHN CAPONIGRO –
BASED ON CHARACTERS CREATED BY JERRY SIEGEL & JOE SHUSTER


I AM THE ATOMIC SKULL--!
YOUR FACE--!
A BY-PRODUCT OF YOUR MASTER'S VILE EXPERIMENT WHICH GAVE ME PRETER-NATURAL STRENGTH AND POWER.
DR. ELECTRON PLANNED THAT I WOULD ASSIST HIM IN HIS PLOT FOR WORLD DOMINANCE...

... BUT HE KNOWS NOW THAT I AM BEYOND HIS CONTROL, THAT I HAVE VOWED TO FOIL HIS EVIL SCHEMES!
THAT IS WHY HE HAS SENT YOU TO APPREHEND ME, IS IT NOT?
HE'S SPEAKING THE WORDS... MIMICK-ING THE ACTIONS OF THE ATOMIC SKULL ON THE MOVIE SCREEN!
WHOEVER HE IS, HE THINKS HE'S A CHARACTER FROM THE OLD SERIAL!
BUT FOR ALL HIS MANIACAL BLUSTER, HE'S RIGHT ABOUT ONE THING! HE'S DANGEROUS!
HIS RADIOACTIVE DECAY IS LIKE A BEACON TO MY INFRARED VISION.

YOU ARE CORRECT, ATOMIC SKULL, AT LEAST IN PART. FOR I AM NOT TO APPREHEND...
...BUT TO DESTROY YOU!
WHAT A WELL-INTENTIONED LACKEY YOU'VE BECOME, FREDERICK! YOU, WHO WERE ONCE MY FRIEND!
WHAKT
NOW THERE'S NOTHING LEFT TO YOU BUT ROCKETMAN! A PITY YOU LACK THE POWER TO IMPLEMENT YOUR PLAN!
DO I INDEED?


HE'S MAD AS A HATTER.
BUT DURING OUR EARLIER CONFLICT,* I LEARNED HE'S RELATIVELY INDESTRUCTIBLE! TIME TO END THIS FARCE!
I'VE GONE EASY ON YOU SO FAR, SKULL, BUT IT'S TIME TO FACE FACTS... YOUR RASH OF VIOLENCE IS OVER!
*IN ACTION #670.

I PUNCHED HIM WITH ALL MY STRENGTH... RIGHT THROUGH THE WALL OF THE LAB! BUT NOW HE'S *GONE*... *ESCAPED*... BUT *HOW*...?

THAT CURSED MONSTER HAS FOILED ME AGAIN! DR. ELECTRON WON'T LIKE THIS... AND IT IS I WHO'LL FEEL HIS WRATH!

I WAS CERTAIN THE SKULL'S IMPACT WITH THE THEATER WALL WOULD *STUN* HIM! IT SEEMS I *UNDERESTIMATED* BOTH HIS STRENGTH AND CUNNING!

WHOEVER HE IS... WHATEVER'S *GOING ON*, I HAVE TO GO AFTER HIM!

HE'S A MAJOR *THREAT!* TO *METROPOLIS!* AND TO *HIMSELF!*

TO THINK HE ACTUALLY REACTED TO MY PRODDING. COULDN'T HE TELL I WANTED HIM TO KNOCK ME THROUGH THE WALL SO I COULD MAKE MY ESCAPE?

I'VE ELUDED ELECTRON'S STRONG MAN! NOW I MUST FACE THE MAD DOCTOR AND FOIL HIS EVIL PLOT!

LOOK! IT'S THE ATOMIC SKULL! HE'S ESCAPED ROCKETMAN, CURSE HIM!

THAT SOUND! SOMEONE BEHIND ME! SKULKERS IN THE WOODS!

GET HIM!

WHAVT!

YOU THOUGHT I COULD BE TAKEN UNAWARE? FOOLS! YOU RECKONED WITHOUT THE SHARPENED SENSES OF THE ATOMIC SKULL!

DARLING! NO!

ZELDA, GET BACK, TURN AWAY! YOU MUSTN'T SEE ME LIKE THIS!

I'D NEARLY FORGOTTEN... THE POLICE HAD THE THEATER SURROUNDED!

KEEP AWAY FROM THE SKULL, OFFICER! BETTER LEAVE HIM TO ME!

MPD

OH, NO! LOIS! WHAT'S SHE DOING HERE? AS IF I HAVE TO ASK!

MISS LANE! KEEP BACK!

NOT A SNOWBALL'S CHANCE IN HELL! I LEARNED ABOUT SKULL-FACE'S ANTICS EAVESDROPPING ON THE COPS' RADIO BANDS AND I'M GONNA STICK AROUND!

YOU ACED ME OUT ON THE INTERGANG STORY, CLARK, BUT WITH A LITTLE LUCK, I'LL GET THIS ONE, WITH AN EXCLUSIVE INTERVIEW...

...AND FILE IT WITH THE WIRE SERVICE BEFORE YOU GET THAT MONSTER SAFELY TUCKED INTO THE SLAMMER!

OH, JOE, DARLING! NO MATTER WHAT YOU *LOOK* LIKE I LOVE THE MAN WITHIN, THE *HERO* THAT YOU TRULY ARE!

OH MY DARLING, I WAS SO *AFRAID* FOR YOU!

THERE WAS NO NEED, MY BEAUTIFUL ZELDA! THIS MONSTER'S BODY IS *IMPERVIOUS* TO INJURY!

ALAS, THROUGH YOUR *LOYALTY*, YOU'VE REVEALED YOUR TRUE COLORS TO MY *ENEMIES*. BUT FEAR NOT... I WILL *PROTECT* YOU.

LOYALTY? WHAT THE HECK ARE YOU *TALKING* ABOUT?

COME *QUICKLY*, MY BEAUTY!

LET GO OF ME! I'M NOT GOING *ANY-WHERE*!

'EY, STOP!

FIRST ANGSTROM AND THEN THIS CLOWN! WHAT *IS* IT WITH ME AND MONSTERS, ANYWAY? IT'S LIKE I'VE STUMBLED INTO THE *TWILIGHT ZONE*!

DAT'S MY NEW *BIKE*!

SO. OFF!

LOIS! DON'T FIGHT HIM! DON'T LEAP OFF OR DO ANYTHING STUPID!

FOR ONCE, PLEASE... JUST *LISTEN* TO ME!

THERE'S A MAN WITH A ROCKET PACK FOLLOWING US!

HE'S DR. ELECTRON'S CHIEF ENFORCER, ROCKET-MAN! HE IS WHAT FREDERICK HAS BECOME!

FREDERICK?! BUT...

I KNOW HE ONCE LOVED YOU, BUT HE HAS GIVEN HIMSELF OVER TO EVIL NOW!

EVEN THOUGH I FEARED HE MIGHT FIND ME, I COULDN'T BRING MYSELF TO KILL HIM!

STILL, CONSIDERING THE ALTITUDE HE'S FLYING AT... AND THAT LOW BRIDGE AHEAD, HIS PURSUIT MAY BE SHORT-LIVED!

HE THINKS CLARK IS ROCKETMAN--? AND THE BRIDGE AHEAD ISN'T LOW! CLARK CAN EASILY SQUEEZE INTO THE SPACE ABOVE THE CARS!

CLARK WAS RIGHT! THIS IS STUPID... NOT THAT I HAVEN'T DONE STUPID THINGS BEFORE TO GET A STORY! BUT THIS TIME I'VE GOT A REAL PSYCHO BY THE TAIL.

STILL, NO MATTER WHAT CLARK THINKS, I'M NOT CRAZY! NO WAY I'M JUMPING FROM A BIKE MOVING THE WRONG WAY THROUGH TRAFFIC AT SIXTY MILES AN HOUR!

ALTHOUGH... IF I CAN GET HIM TO SLOW DOWN A LITTLE...

WHY NOT GIVE IT UP, SKULL? MAKE IT EASY ON YOURSELF!

THERE ARE HUNDREDS OF WAYS SUPERMAN COULD STOP YOU! HE COULD USE HIS HEAT VISION TO MELT YOUR TIRES...

...BUT HE PROBABLY WON'T, SINCE I MIGHT GET HURT!

OR HE COULD BLOW YOU OVER WITH SUPER BREATH...

...WHICH I EXPECT HE WON'T DO EITHER, BUT YOU DON'T HAVE TO KNOW THAT...

BUT PROBABLY HE'LL JUST FLY AHEAD AT SUPER-SPEED, PLUCK ME FROM THE BIKE AND HAUL YOUR BUTT OFF TO THE SLAMMER!

HUSH, ZELDA! TRUST ME, I WON'T LET HIM *HARM* YOU!

I KNOW, MY DARLING! YOU ARE, AFTER ALL, A *MASTER STRATEGIST* AND HAVE ROCKET-MAN RIGHT WHERE YOU *WANT* HIM, DON'T YOU?

WHERE ARE WE *GOING?*

TO MY *HIDEOUT*, CLEVERLY HIDDEN WITHIN A CRAWL SPACE IN THE ROOF OF THIS OLD *FACTORY!*

LOOKS LIKE *ROCKET-BOY* SCREWED UP! *STOP HIM!*

IT'S THE *SKULL!* THE BOSS SAID HE'D BE *DEAD* BY NOW!

I *UNDER-ESTIMATED* DR. ELECTRON! WHILE I WAS AWAY, HE DISCOVERED AND OCCUPIED MY HIDEOUT! BUT WE WILL ESCAPE THIS NEFARIOUS *TRAP...*

"...WHILE *ROCKETMAN* WILL *PAY* FOR HIS LOYALTY TO HIS *MASTER!*"

KROOOOM

WHAT THE *HECK?!* THAT CRAZY *MOTOR-CYCLIST--* AND NOW *SUPERMAN!*

GREAT SCOTT! MY EYES, MY WHOLE *CONCENTRATION*, WAS FOCUSED ON THE SKULL AND LOIS!

DIDN'T SEE THE TRUCK SWERVE INTO THE INTERSECTION UNTIL IT WAS *TOO* LATE!

"IT LOOKED LIKE HE TOOK HER INTO THE DAILY STAR PRINTING PLANT! BUT WHY WOULD HE DO THAT?"

THERE HE GOES!

HEY, YOU! STOP HIM!

WHAT DO YOU MEAN, ME STOP HIM? YOU STOP HIM!

ME? I'M GETTING OUT OF HIS WAY!

OH, MAN! THIS LOSER LOOKS LIKE THE ATOMIC SKULL FROM THE OLD SERIAL ... ONE OF MY FAVORITES WHEN I WAS A KID.

HOPE NONE OF THE GUYS NOTICE THE CAMERA, BUT THIS IS A SALABLE PICTURE AND IT'S WORTH RISKING EXPOSURE TO GET IT!

CLIK! WHRRRR! CLIK! WHRRR! CLIK!

MY JANITOR GIG HERE SHOULD PAY THE RENT, BUT MY SECRET EXPOSÉ...

...COMPLETE WITH PHOTOGRAPHIC EVIDENCE OF INHUMAN WORKING CONDITIONS AT THE STAR'S PRINTING PLANT...

...SHOULD MAKE MY REP. I'LL BET EVEN NEWSTIME WILL BE INTERESTED!

THEN THE DAILY PLANET WILL BE REAL SORRY THEY FIRED OL' JIMMY OLSEN!

STOP RIGHT THERE, SKULL! THIS IS AS FAR AS YOU GO!

AH, MIRACULOUS! ONE OF DR. ELECTRON'S GOONS SHOWS COURAGE!

CLICK

EGAD! MY GUN!

SNAPT

HE ACTUALLY DARES TO BAR MY PATH!

OMIGOSH! LOIS!

GET BACK, JIMMY! I HEARD THE COPS SAY HE FIRES SOME KIND OF DEATH RAY!

COURAGEOUS THOUGH YOU MAY BE, YOU WILL FIND YOU ARE NO MATCH FOR THE POWER OF THE ATOMIC SKULL!

DAMN!

SHRAKT

MY CAMERA! I'VE LOST ALL MY SHOTS... AND MY PROOF!

AND AFTER BEING LAID OFF ALL THESE WEEKS, I DON'T HAVE ENOUGH MONEY TO PAY THE RENT... MUCH LESS BUY ANOTHER ONE!

DARLING, I'M FRIGHTENED! WHAT ARE YOU DOING?

THIS WAS MY HIDEOUT, BEFORE I CAME INTO CONFLICT WITH DR. ELECTRON.

I KNOW ITS WORKINGS, ITS RHYTHMS, LIKE I KNOW THE BEATING OF MY OWN HEART!

WE WILL RIDE ITS MOVING GIRDERS TO THE TOP LEVEL OF THE FACTORY... TO THOSE WINDOWS FAR OVERHEAD...

... FOR THAT WAY LIES OUR ESCAPE!

THE SKULL'S CRAZY. DANGEROUSLY CRAZY! THANK HEAVEN LOIS HASN'T DONE ANYTHING TO TRY TO STOP THAT MADMAN ON HER OWN...!

WHAT'S SHE SAYING TO HIM UP THERE? IS SHE TRYING TO KEEP HIM TALKING... DISTRACTED FROM THE WORKERS BELOW...?

PARTLY, MAYBE! BUT SHE'S ALSO INTERVIEWING HIM... AS MUCH AS YOU CAN INTERVIEW A MAN WHO THINKS HE'S SOMEONE ELSE...

... COLLECTING PITHY SNATCHES OF DIALOGUE TO QUOTE LATER... IF, BY SOME MIRACLE, SHE LIVES TO QUOTE ANYTHING!

OH, NO! WHAT HAPPENED?

DON'T WORRY!

BUT... THE LIGHTS HAVE GONE OUT AND THE MACHINERY HAS STOPPED...

ONE OF DR. ELECTRON'S GOONS HAS NO DOUBT TURNED OFF THE POWER, HOPING TO INTERRUPT THE MOVEMENT OF THE GIRDERS AND THUS TO THWART ME...*

...BUT THE WINDOW IS RIGHT BEFORE US, AND HE WILL FIND THIS RUSE NO MORE THAN AN INCONVENIENCE...

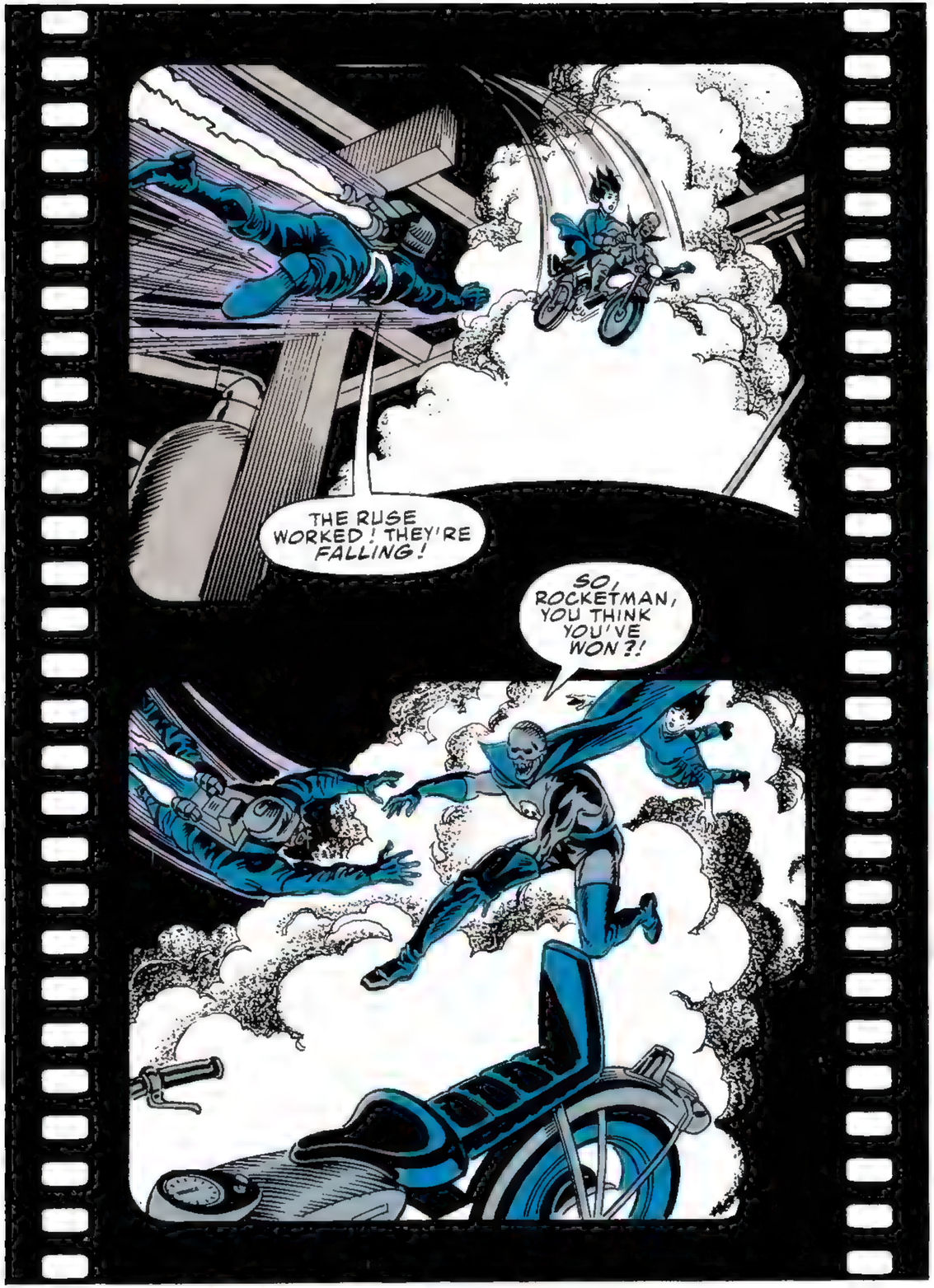
IN REAL LIFE (TO THE RIGHT), METROPOLIS HAS BEEN PLAGUED BY PERIODIC BROWNOUTS ALL SUMMER.

...TO THE ATOMIC SKULL!

INCONVENIENCE, HUH?

DAMN! THERE MUST BE SOMETHING I CAN GRAB ON TO! THAT PIPE...

ZELDA!


THE RUSE WORKED! THEY'RE FALLING!
SO, ROCKETMAN, YOU THINK YOU'VE WON?!

SUPERMAN! THANK HEAVEN!
SKULL! LET ME HELP YOU!
GET YOUR FILTHY HAND AWAY FROM ME, YOU TRAITOR!

I WOULD RATHER DIE THAN BE BEHOLDEN TO YOU!

DIE, THEN... YOU'LL SIMPLY SAVE DR. ELECTRON THE TROUBLE OF KILLING YOU!

AND LET YOUR LAST SIGHT BE OF THE BEAUTIFUL, BLUE-EYED ZELDA CLASPED IN MY ARMS!

JOE! DARLING!

HE GRABBED THE PIPE I WAS AIMING FOR! LUCKY FOR HIM, HE'S SUPER-HUMANLY STRONG. I'M NOT SURE I'D HAVE BEEN ABLE TO MANAGE IT!

THEN I GUESS YOU'RE GLAD I HAPPENED ALONG. I ASSUME YOU GOT YOUR INTERVIEW?

SORT OF... HE THINKS HE'S THE GOOD GUY, SUPERMAN... AND THAT YOU'RE EVIL, ONE OF THE THUGS OF HIS ARCHNEMESIS, DR. ELECTRON.

YEAH. THAT OLD SERIAL USED TO BE ONE OF MY FAVORITES. HE'S QUOTING LINES FROM ALL OVER IT...

... PICKING HIS SCENE TO MATCH WHAT'S HAPPENING IN REAL LIFE, MORE OR LESS. EVEN THE BROWNOUT!

JIMMY, IN THE SERIAL... WHAT HAPPENS TO HIM?

HE FORCES THE MAD DOCTOR TO CURE HIM WITH A SCIENCE FICTION HELMET... BUT I GUESS YOU DON'T HAVE ONE OF THOSE, HUH?

I KNEW DAT KID LOOKED FAMILIAR! DAT'S SUPERMAN'S PAL, JIMMY OLSEN, THE DAILY PLANET PHOTOGRAPHER! I I SAW HIS TRICK WIT' DA CAMERA...

... AN' I'M GONNA FIRE HIM SO FAST IT'LL MAKE HIS HEAD SPIN!

ZELDA IS IN THE HANDS OF MY *ENEMY*, BUT HE LOVED HER ONCE, AND, SURELY, HE WON'T HARM HER *WILLINGLY!*

SHE WILL BE SAFE FOR THE LITTLE WHILE IT WILL TAKE ME TO CONFRONT DR. ELECTRON...

...AND FORCE HIM TO MY *WILL!*

CRASH!!

OH, NO! THERE HE *GOES* AGAIN!

MY MOTORCYCLE HAS BEEN DESTROYED, BUT I STILL HAVE MY *ROADSTER*.

AND NOW, ONWARD-- TO DR. ELECTRON'S LAIR!

ONE OF ELECTRON'S GOONS IS LOUNGING IN MY SEAT!

GET OUT, WHILE YET YOU LIVE! DO NOT TEMPT THE *FURY* OF THE ATOMIC SKULL!

ATOMIC SKULL, IS IT? THE BOSS AIN'T *NEVER* GONNA BELIEVE THIS ONE!

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GREAT SCOTT! I'M BEGINNING TO THINK HIS REAL *POWER* ISN'T STRENGTH OR INVULNERABILITY OR HEAT-RAYS...

...BUT PLAIN, OLD FASHIONED *LUCK*!

VROOOOOOOOMMM!

BLAST IT ALL! I WAS HOPING I HAD *LOST* THAT NUISANCE!

BUT, NO MATTER HIS INHUMAN STRENGTH! *ELECTRON'S* LAB IS STRAIGHT AHEAD...

...AND *ROCKETMAN* HAS ARRIVED TOO LATE TO *STOP* ME!

SCREECH!

GOOD HEAVENS! SUPERMAN! WHAT'S GOING ON?

KEEP BACK, PROFESSOR HAMILTON! THE *ATOMIC SKULL* IS RADIO-ACTIVE!

KTTSH!

THE GUY FROM THE OLD *SERIAL*? IT'S ONE OF MY FAVORITES! BUT WHAT'S HE DOING *HERE*?

NEVER MIND, I CAN *SEE* THAT! HE'S FIGHTING *YOU*, ISN'T HE? JUST HOLD ONTO HIM, OKAY?...

...I THINK I HAVE JUST THE ANSWER TO HIS *RADIOACTIVITY* BURIED UNDER THE *RUBBLE* LEFT FROM S.T.A.R. LABS' DESTRUCTION!

YOU THINK YOU'VE ESCAPED ME TO REVENGE YOURSELF ON MY MASTER, DR. ELECTRON, BUT THERE YOU'RE WRONG!

AM I? FIRST, I SHALL DEFEAT YOU, ROCKETMAN...

...AND THEN I SHALL DESTROY ELECTRON AND EVERY EVIL EXPERIMENT IN HIS LAB!

WHAKT

DON'T HURT HIM, SUPERMAN, OKAY? THE ATOMIC SKULL WAS ALWAYS ONE OF MY HEROES!

GREAT SCOTT! THAT MUST BE SOME SERIAL!

ALL RIGHT, HAMILTON! YOU'VE GOT TWO MINUTES! MAKE THEM COUNT!

COME ON, BOYS, PUT YOUR BACKS INTO IT! THERE IT IS! NOW GET IT OUT!

WHAT... WHAT IS IT?

I GAVE HIM TOO MUCH POWER!

WHAKT

NOW I MUST CHANGE HIM BACK BEFORE HE USES IT TO THWART ALL MY PLANS!

HERE, ROCKETMAN! THE HELMET I USED TO CREATE HIM WILL ALSO DESTROY HIM!

HEY, SUPERMAN! CATCH!

WHAT IS IT?

A BORON CONTROL ROD, USED TO ABSORB RADIATION FROM S.T.A.R. LABS' ATOMIC GENERATOR!

IF IT ABSORBS THE RADIATION THAT POWERS THE SKULL, MAYBE HE'LL BE MORE MANAGE-ABLE!

IT MAY EVEN EFFECT A CURE! IT'S WORTH A TRY, AT ANY RATE! TRY WRAPPING IT AROUND HIS HEAD!

HIS HEAD?!?

WHAT IS THE MATTER, MONSTER? WHY DO YOU FLINCH AT THE SIGHT OF THE HELMET?
ISN'T THIS WHAT YOU'VE WANTED ALL ALONG, TO RETURN TO YOUR TRUE FORM?
NOT THIS WAY! YOU WANT TO REMOVE MY STRENGTH IN ORDER TO ESCAPE YOUR JUST PUNISH-MENT!
BUT YOU WILL FAIL! FOR I WILL GLADLY SACRIFICE MY HUMANITY, IF IT MEANS THAT I DESTROY YOU!
TOO LATE, SKULL! YOU HAVE MET YOUR MATCH IN ROCKET-MAN!

FUNNY! THE SOLUTION HAMILTON PROPOSED IS MUCH LIKE THE ONE I GOT FROM JIMMY OLSEN!
THE SKULL DOESN'T SEEM LIKE A BAD GUY... JUST A DANGER-OUSLY CRAZY ONE! I HOPE THIS WORKS!
EVERYONE, KEEP BACK, UNTIL HE'S FULLY SUBDUED! HE'S STARTING TO GLOW...

NOOOOO!

I'D HOPED TO SPARE YOU, BUT YOU GIVE ME NO CHOICE! I MUST UNLEASH MY HEAT RAY TO DESTROY YOU...

...FOR THE FATE OF THE *WORLD* IS MORE IMPORTANT THAN YOUR PUTRID *LIVES*!

NOOOOOO!

IT... IT IS *DONE*. I DESTROYED DR. ELECTRON JUST IN TIME... BEFORE MY *POWERS* WERE REVOKED.

BUT WHAT IS THIS...? I HAVE RETURNED TO *NORMAL*!

HEY, THAT'S *JOE MARTIN*, THE GUY I DIAGNOSED A COUPLE OF DAYS AGO BEFORE S.T.A.R. LABS WAS DESTROYED! HE HAD THE *METAGENE*!

TOO BAD THEY *FIRED* YOU, JIMMY!

IT WASN'T A *REAL* JOB, MISS LANE. I'D HAVE QUIT ANYWAY, ONCE MY *COVER* WAS BLOWN.

HEY, THERE'S SUPERMAN! HE'S *OKAY*!

ZELDA! DARLING!

I ESCAPED WITH YOUR MOTOR-CYCLE! I HAD TO COME, I WAS SO FRIGHTENED FOR YOU!

OH, MY DEAREST, YOU'RE YOUR HANDSOME SELF AGAIN!

AND DR. ELECTRON WILL TROUBLE THE WORLD NO MORE!

JUDGING FROM MY READINGS, MISS LANE, MOST OF THE RADIATION YOU ABSORBED WAS *INFRARED*, THE SHORTER BAND STUFF...

...NO WORSE FOR YOU THAN IF YOU HAD HAD SEVERAL CHEST X-RAYS.

GOOD. I ADMIT I WAS A LITTLE WORRIED.

AND SO, MY DARLING ZELDA, NOW THAT THIS TERRIBLE ORDEAL IS OVER, WILL YOU *MARRY* ME?

HARLEY-DAVISON

S.T.A.R. LABS' DESTRUC-TION WAS SUCH A DISASTER... IT'S NICE TO SEE A STORY WITH A HAPPY ENDING.

IF YOU CALL *THAT* HAPPY!

HE THINKS IT IS!

HE'S STILL IN A DREAM WORLD...

;SIGH!; AND I ALMOST WISH I WAS THERE WITH HIM! MY *CAMERA'S* GONE AND I'M OUT OF ANOTHER JOB!

HOW AM I GONNA SCRAPE TOGETHER ENOUGH MONEY TO PAY THE RENT *NOW*?

Fini

ONCE I WAS A MAN WITH A MISSION.

BORN IN THE FUTURE, DEDICATED TO THE DESTRUCTION OF MONARCH, I BECAME *WAVERIDER*.

BUT NOW, WITH MY MISSION ACCOMPLISHED, I FIND LITTLE JOY IN A VICTORY--

--THAT LEAVES MY SOUL TWISTED AND TORTURED.

MY WIFE, MY CHILDREN--EVERYTHING DEAR TO MATTHEW RYDER--

--BECAME A CASUALTY IN THE WAR AGAINST MONARCH.

IT ALL DIED HERE, IN THE IMPLOSION THAT RIPPED APART S.T.A.R. LABS.

METROPOLIS, 1991

--ARE NOW DREAMS OF SMOKE THAT WILL NEVER EXIST.

MY WORLD THIS TIME'S FUTURE AND EVERYTHING THAT FORMS IT--

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TIME AND TIME AGAIN AGAIN!

SUPERMAN Created by JERRY SIEGEL & JOE SHUSTER

THAT'S IT-- JUST A LITTLE HIGHER... THERE!

THANKS FOR THE HELP, GUYS!

OUR PLEASURE, SUPERMAN!

THE *METAL MEN* ARE EMINENTLY PERFECT TO HELP DIG OUT THE *QUANTUM FIELD GENERATOR* THAT'S BURIED UNDER ALL THIS RUBBLE!

AH, QUIT THE BABBLING AND GET TO WORK!

HEROES. ONCE I WAS INFATUATED WITH THEM.

HOW STRANGE IT IS TO WATCH THEM CLEAR AWAY WRECKAGE THAT REPRESENTS A CEMETERY TO ME.

A BURIAL GROUND FOR BILLIONS WHO WILL NEVER BE BORN.

BACK AWAY, KIDS! THIS IS DANGEROUS WORK!

DAN JURGENS . BRETT BREEDING . JOHN COSTANZA . GLENN WHITMORE . DAN THORSLAND . MIKE CARLIN
STORY & art *finished art* *lettering* *coloring* *assistant editor* *foreman*

I DON'T LIKE THIS ONE BIT, HAMILTON! IF THAT QUANTUM FIELD GENERATOR SHOULD RUPTURE WHILE MY METAL MEN ARE HERE...

I UNDERSTAND YOUR CONCERN, DR. MAGNUS! IT WAS YOU WHO *BUILT* THE METAL MEN!

BUT THE VERY FACT THAT THE GENERATOR IS SO POTENTIALLY LETHAL TO *HUMANITY*--

--MAKES YOUR *ROBOTS* IDEAL MOVERS!

THAT'S WHAT HAS ME WORRIED... THEY'RE *MORE* THAN *JUST* ROBOTS!

POLICE

DO NOT CROSS

BUT NEAR METROPOLIS THEY ARE UNFORTUNATELY OUR ONLY HOPE--

--NOT ONLY DOES THE GENERATOR HAVE TO BE EXTRACTED, BUT IT HAS TO COME OUT *INTACT!*

ITS POTENTIAL FOR TIME TRAVEL EXPERIMENTS IS *LIMITLESS!*

WOW, POP, DIDJA HEAR THAT? *TIME TRAVEL!* WAYYY COOL!

AH, IT'S THE STUFF OF DREAMS, MATT!

THAT BOY!

IT'S ME!

ONCE AGAIN I'VE ENCOUNTERED YOUNG MATT RYDER--

--AND THIS TIME, MY FATHER AND MOTHER AS WELL!

IT'S SO TEMPTING TO MAKE MYSELF VISIBLE... TO TALK TO THEM--

--BUT I *CAN'T!* TO PLAY WITH THEIR HEADS THAT WAY WOULD...

BEFORE YOU IS PERFECT EVIDENCE OF MAYOR BERKOWITZ'S INEPT ADMINISTRATION!

IF ELECTED MAYOR, I, COLLIN THORNTON, WILL *NEVER* STAND FOR SUCH LAX REGULATIONS CONCERNING HARMFUL MATERIALS IN SUCH DENSELY POPULATED AN AREA!

DAT TH' T'ING WE'RE LOOKIN' FOR?

TH' QUANTUM REFRIGERATOR?

S-S-SURE LOOKS LIKE IT, LEAD!

THAT MEANS WE PROCEED WITH EXTREME CAUTION FROM HERE ON!

IT'S A QUANTUM *GENERATOR*, NOT *REFRIG-ERATOR*, YOU IDIOTS!

OKAY, GUYS, JUST LIKE WE PLANNED! ROUTINE NINE!

PLATINUM, LEAD AND IRON WILL FORM A PROTECTIVE SHELL AROUND THE GENERATOR WHILE THE REST OF US CLEAR THE WAY!

CONSIDER IT A DONE DEAL, GOLD!

HURRY IT UP, IRON! WE DON'T HAVE ALL DAY!

LIGHTEN UP, MERCURY! THIS SITUATION IS *HOT* ENOUGH ALREADY!

WE DON'T NEED YOUR TEMPER MAKING IT WORSE!

HMMPH!

UHN... OKAY, HERE WE GO!

THEY'VE JUST ENTERED THE MOST CRITICAL PHASE OF THE MISSION.

THAT GENERATOR HAS TO BE MOVED TO *MAGNUS ROBOTICS* AND HOOKED UP TO THE DAMPING RODS!

I HOPE THEY HAVE ENOUGH TIME.

TIME. A WORD THAT FOR ME NOW MEANS EVERYTHING AND NOTHING.

IT'S AS THOUGH I CAN NO LONGER RELATE TO ORDINARY LIFE!

OLSEN, YOU DEADBEAT! OPEN UP!

I WANT MY *RENT* MONEY!

BAMM BAMM BAMM

NO *WAY* I WANNA TALK TO HIM! IF HE FINDS OUT I'M FLAT BROKE HE'LL *EVICT* ME!

HEY, IT'S QUIET! THE OLD DOG IS GONE TO BARK AT SOMEONE ELSE!

MAYBE I SHOULD GO TO THE PLASMA CENTER-- GIVE BLOOD FOR MONEY--

KNOK KNOK

HE'LL *NEVER* GIVE UP! MIGHT AS WELL FACE THE MUSIC!

LOIS *LANE*?!

HI, JIMMY! CLARK IS BUSY... WORKING--

--SO I THOUGHT I'D HAVE DINNER WITH AN OLD FRIEND! YOU LIKE CHINESE, RIGHT?

YEAH, SURE, BUT I DON'T HAVE A TABLE OR ANYTHING...

NO WORRY! MILK CRATES MAKE FOR A RUSTIC ATMOSPHERE!

WELL, MAYBE A LITTLE MUSIC WILL HELP!

I MAY NOT HAVE A LOT BUT I DO HAVE A RADIO!

--INTERRUPT WITH THIS SPECIAL BULLETIN!

LEXAIR FLIGHT 103 HAS CRASHED 70 MILES UPSTATE! DETAILS ARE SKETCHY--

"--BUT EMERGENCY CREWS HAVE ARRIVED ON THE SCENE!"

AMAZING! HOW CAN YOU WALK AWAY FROM A CRASH LIKE THIS WITHOUT EVEN A SCRATCH?

NEVER SEEN ANYTHING LIKE IT! BETTER LET ME CHECK YOU OVER AND MAKE SURE YOU'RE OKAY!

THAT WILL HARDLY BE NECESSARY, YOUNG MAN.

IN FACT, I HAVE A SUGGESTION FOR YOU.

YOU NEVER SAW ME.

THERE ARE NO SURVIVORS.

NO... SURVIVORS

ONCE AGAIN, MY IMMORTALITY HAS SERVED ME WELL.

HOPEFULLY, ONE OF MY VALUED POSSESSIONS SURVIVED AS-- AH. IT DID.

THOUGH SUPERMAN DESTROYED THE MAGICAL GEMSTONE THAT ADORNED THIS WALKING STICK IN THE PAST--

--I CANNOT AFFORD TO LOSE IT.

NOT WHEN METROPOLIS STANDS SO NEAR.

AND WHILE IT PROVIDED ME WITH ONE OF MY MORE DEVASTATING DEFEATS--

"--IT SHALL SOON BE THE SITE OF MY GREATEST TRIUMPH!"

GREAT--! JUST GREAT! NOW YOU'VE BLOWN IT!

MERCURY'S RIGHT! WE MUST HAVE JOSTLED SOMETHING LOOSE IN THE GENERATOR!

LOOKS LIKE IT'S COMING APART AT THE SEAMS!

IF NOT FOR THE SHIELD WE FORMED AROUND THE GENERATOR, HALF THE PEOPLE AROUND HERE WOULD BE DEAD DUCKS!

YEAH, BUT HOW LONG CAN THE TEAM HOLD OUT?

IF THEY CAN'T KEEP THAT QUANTUM FIELD CONTAINED UNTIL WE GET TO MAGNUS ROBOTICS, WE'RE REALLY IN TROUBLE!

I *KNEW* THIS WOULD HAPPEN-- THEY'LL NEVER *SURVIVE* THIS ACCIDENT!

THEY'RE ONLY *MACHINES*, WILL! *RELAX!* WE CAN MAKE MORE!

AIEEE! CAN'T STAND THE PAIN ANY LONGER!

TINA! YOU'VE JUST GOT TO *HOLD ON!*

AWESOME! THIS IS EVEN BETTER THAN WHEN THE BUILDING COLLAPSED!

THE ONLOOKERS, MY YOUNGER SELF INCLUDED, DON'T SEEM TO APPRECIATE THE GRAVITY OF THIS EVENT.

STILL... THERE IS SOMETHING STRANGELY FAMILIAR ABOUT WHAT'S HAPPENING.

IF I WAS HERE AS A CHILD-- WOULD I REMEMBER ALL THIS?

I TRIED--BUT I JUST CAN'T HANG ON!

ME EITHER! IT'S TOO HOT!

SEE IF YOU CAN HELP YOUR FRIENDS, GOLD! I'LL CONCENTRATE ON GETTING THIS GENERATOR AWAY FROM HERE!

NO PROBLEM, SUPERMAN! THE METAL MEN CAN DEFINITELY TAKE CARE OF THEIR OWN!

NO! DESPITE THE DANGER, YOUR FIRST RESPONSIBILITY IS TO THE PEOPLE!

JUST BE CAREFUL WHILE YOU DO IT!

WOW! WILL REALLY LOOKS TORN UP OVER THIS! HE NEVER USED TO WORRY ABOUT US THIS MUCH!

IF LEAD WASN'T STILL HOLDING HALF THIS THING TOGETHER, IT WOULD HAVE BLOWN BY NOW!

THANKS TO HIM I MIGHT HAVE JUST THE TIME TO--

FSSHHOOM

ARRGH!

TOO LATE! THE GENERATOR IS EXPLODING!

OF COURSE--I DO HAVE MEMORIES OF THIS DAY! I'VE ALWAYS HAD TROUBLE REMEMBERING THIS TRAUMATIC TIME OF MY LIFE CLEARLY!

IT'S FUZZY, BUT I DO RECALL SEEING THIS GENERATOR EXPLODE--

-- THE DAY MY PARENTS DIED!

WHAT CAN I DO TO STOP--

-- THIS?

--BUT TIME HAS COMPLETELY STOPPED!

EVERYTHING IS FROZEN EXCEPT ME!

SOMETHING IS WRONG.

IT'S NOT POSSIBLE--!

HAVE I SUBCONSCIOUSLY HALTED THE FLOW OF TIME?

CAN I DO THAT?

MAYBE THE QUANTUM GENERATOR IS RESPONSIBLE! I KNOW ALL TOO WELL THAT THE QUANTUM FIELD IS LINKED TO THE TIME STREAM IN --

WAIT! THAT WOMAN WHO'S JUST APPEARED IS MOVING TOO!

I HAVE ARRIVED AT THE DESIGNATED MOMENT IN 1991, HUNTER, AND OUR INSTRUMENTS WERE CORRECT.

THAT BLIP IN THE TIME STREAM WE DETECTED WAS APPARENTLY CAUSED BY A RUPTURED QUANTUM GENERATOR.

I'VE FROZEN TIME SO WE CAN MORE THOROUGHLY STUDY THIS EVENT--

--AND WILL RETURN TO *VANISHING POINT*--

SHE ACTUALLY STOPPED TIME?! IT SEEMS *IMPOSSIBLE!*

--NOW!

SHE'S GONE-- AND SHE'S TAKEN SUPERMAN WITH HER!

BUT WHERE --AND WHAT-- IS *VANISHING POINT*?

THERE'S NO WAY FOR ME TO KNOW UNLESS...

YES. I CAN FEEL RESIDUAL TIME TRAVEL ENERGIES HERE! SHE'S SLIPPED INTO THE TIMESTREAM!

I'VE NEVER TRIED THIS, BUT AS A LIVING ELEMENT OF THE TIME STREAM ITSELF--

--I SHOULD BE ABLE TO "READ" THESE ENERGIES AND FOLLOW HER!

DONE. HER TRAIL IN THE TIME STREAM IS AN EASY ONE TO SEE.

STRANGE. NOW THAT I THINK ABOUT IT, THAT DEVICE ON HER WRIST SEEMS VERY SIMILAR TO A DESIGN--

--THAT I WORKED ON AS MATTHEW RYDER!

MAYBE MY EXPERIMENTS WITH TIME TRAVEL WERE MORE ACCURATE THAN I THOUGHT!

I HAVE TO KNOW WHO SHE IS... AND HOW SHE CAN ACCOMPLISH THE IMPOSSIBLE!

HER TRAIL ENDS HERE.

THE QUESTION REMAINS--

--WHERE IS "HERE"?

THE GENERATOR -- AND SUPERMAN -- THIS MUST BE THE MYSTERY WOMAN'S VANISHING POINT.

EASY TO SEE WHY.

LOOKS LIKE A STASIS FIELD HAS FROZEN THE GENERATOR IN MID-EXPLOSION.

AND SUPERMAN MIGHT AS WELL BE A STATUE.

MAYBE THE FUTURE CAN GIVE ME SOME ANSWERS. TO GET THEM, ALL I HAVE TO DO --

--IS TOUCH SUPERMAN!

DOWN, KID! :UHF!:

THE TRAUMATIC EVENTS ARE JUST WHAT I REMEMBERED... FROM MY PAST!

MOST EVERYBODY -- INCLUDING MY PARENTS --

--WILL BE DISINTEGRATED IN THIS GENERATOR'S BLAST!

I CAN'T LET THAT HAPPEN! I CAN'T ALLOW TIME TO RESUME ITS FLOW!

:UHN... WAVERIDER?!

MY TOUCH --? IT BROUGHT YOU OUT OF STASIS! OR WAS IT THAT WOMAN AGAIN --?

LAST THING I REMEMBER IS BEING IN METROPOLIS! THE GENERATOR --?

SUPERMAN... HAVE *YOU* EVER ENCOUNTERED THIS PLACE? IS THIS VANISHING POINT?

NEVER HEARD OF IT! WHY DID YOU BRING ME HERE?

I DIDN'T. A WOMAN -- A TIME TRAVELLER, FROM THE LOOKS OF IT -- BROUGHT YOU FAR INTO THE FUTURE -- OR THE PAST -- OR SOMEWHEN!

I FIGURED I COULD LEND A HAND!

TIME TRAVEL?! NOT THAT AGAIN!

YOU KNOW WHO DID THIS?

NOT REALLY. BUT SOMEONE CALLED THE LINEAR MAN RECENTLY SENT ME BOUNCING ALL OVER THE PAST AND FUTURE!

WE NEED SOME ANSWERS! AND EVEN THOUGH THIS HALLWAY SEEMS TO GO ON FOREVER--

--MY TELESCOPIC VISION SHOULD REVEAL WHAT'S AT THE END!

WEIRD!

THIS TIME/SPACE CONTINUUM STUFF IS ABSOLUTELY BIZARRE!

WE MUST BE IN A PLACE WHERE NORMAL RULES OF PHYSICS DON'T APPLY!

INDEED YOU ARE, SUPERMAN!

I'M LOOKING STRAIGHT AHEAD BUT MY VISION IS SOMEHOW WARPING FULL CIRCLE!

ALL I CAN SEE IS *US*--FROM BEHIND!

YOU--? ARE THE WOMAN WHO BROUGHT ME HERE?

YES, BUT WE WANTED YOU HERE, SUPERMAN. YOUR FRIEND THERE IS A DIFFERENT MATTER.

UNFORTUNATELY... THE ONLY WAY WE WANTED *YOU* WAS *UNCONSCIOUS!*

NO ONE WAS TO EVER LEARN OF OUR EXISTENCE!

WELL, IT'S TOO LATE TO WORRY ABOUT THAT NOW, *HUNTER!* IT SEEMS OUR SHROUD OF SECRECY HAS BEEN PULLED ASIDE!

IT'S SACRILEGE, LIRI! NONE BUT THE *BROTHERHOOD* SHOULD SEE *VANISHING POINT!*

HUNTER, LIRI LEE, CEASE YOUR BICKER-ING.

SQUABBLE ALL YOU WANT... *AFTER* YOU PROVIDE US WITH SOME EXPLANA-TIONS!

WE PURSUE KNOWLEDGE, SUPERMAN. DURING A ROUTINE PASS OVER 1991 WE DISCOVERED A *BLIP* IN THE CONTINUUM--

--A HOLE IN TIME, AS IT TURNS OUT.

TO EXAMINE THE MOMENT IN DETAIL IT BECAME NECESSARY TO BRING ITS KEY ELEMENTS HERE.

YOU MEAN THE QUANTUM GENERATOR WAS ACTUALLY RIPPING THROUGH THE TIME STREAM?

BUT THAT MEANS *THOUSANDS* WILL DIE IN A NEEDLESS EXPLOSION!

WE'VE NOT YET COMPLETED OUR STUDY, BUT IT APPEARS SO.

ONCE WE FINISH WE WILL RETURN YOU TO THE PAST AND ALLOW HISTORY TO RUN ITS COURSE.

QUITE POSSIBLY, BUT THE FLOW OF TIME IS BEYOND JUDGMENT.

IT IS NEITHER GOOD NOR BAD. IT ONLY *IS*.

I DISAGREE! IF YOU HAVE THE OPPORTUNITY TO SAVE LIVES--

SUPERMAN IS *RIGHT!* IF YOU THINK I'LL LET MY PARENTS DIE IN THAT EXPLOSION YOU ARE *DEAD WRONG!*

YOUR PARENTS *DIED?!* BUT I THOUGHT YOU WERE-- *NO!*

IT IS UNIMPORTANT.

WAIT! THOSE OUTFITS, YOUR OBSESSION WITH TIME--

--YOU *ARE* RELATED TO THAT GUY WHO BLEW UP THE MOON!

YES. WE ARE THE *LINEAR MEN*, DEDICATED TO GUARDING THE LINEAR SANCTITY OF THE TIME STREAM.

HISTORY IS A SEQUENTIAL SERIES OF EVENTS THAT MUST FALL PERFECTLY IN PLACE... LEADING TO "*THE END.*"

TO DISTURB THAT *ORDER* IS TO INVITE THE UNIMAGINABLE.

ABOVE ALL ELSE, ACHIEVING "*THE END*" IS OUR CONCERN.

THAT'S NUTS! BY FOLLOWING THAT *MYOPIC* THEORY--

--YOUR FRIEND *MURDERED* TENS OF MILLIONS OF PEOPLE!

OUR HISTORY CLEARLY RECORDED THE MOON'S DESTRUCTION.

HAD IT NOT HAPPENED, THE CHANGE IN SUBSEQUENT EVENTS WOULD HAVE BEEN CONSIDERED A MUCH GREATER DISASTER.

WE *KNOW* THIS, JUST AS WE KNOW OF A MAN WHO ONCE TRAVELLED INTO THE PAST--

-- AND IN DOING SO OBLITERATED AN ENTIRE FUTURE.

YOU'RE TALKING ABOUT--

WAVERIDER. AND BECAUSE OF HIM COUNTLESS MILLIONS WILL NEVER KNOW THE JOY OF *LIVING*.

YOU HAVE NO *RIGHT* TO JUDGE ME! I DID IT ALL TO PREVENT THE EXISTENCE OF *MONARCH*!

MY WORLD WAS A *DEAD* ONE UNDER HIS IRON FIST! THERE WAS *NO JOY*!

DON'T YOU SEE... ALL YOU DID WAS ALLOW MONARCH TO BE CREATED EXACTLY ON SCHEDULE -- ACCORDING TO OUR RECORDS AT "*THE END*," THAT IS.

BESIDES, MONARCH IS *STILL ALI*--

QUIET, HUNTER.

WAVERIDER MUST DISCOVER HIS MISTAKES ON HIS OWN.

THERE WERE *NO* MISTAKES! I DESTROYED HIS ENTIRE EMPIRE!

THIS IS *RIDICULOUS!*

AS FAR AS I'M CONCERNED, YOU'RE ALL JUST A BUNCH OF SELF-APPOINTED GODS--

--WHO THINK TIME IS A PLAY-GROUND YOU CAN RUN AS YOU CHOOSE!

WELL, HERE'S A NEWSFLASH!

I DON'T TRUST ANYONE IN THIS ROOM BESIDES *ME!*

PLEASE, SUPERMAN, GIVE US A CHANCE... AND TRY TO UNDERSTAND!

THINK OF ADOLF HITLER, FOR EXAMPLE!

HITLER? WHAT DOES HE HAVE TO DO WITH ANYTHING?

REMEMBER THAT HE WAS WOUNDED IN WWI. WE COULD EASILY GO BACK IN TIME AND SEE TO IT THAT HE DIED!

EASILY? WHAT *CAN'T* YOU PEOPLE DO?

WE *CAN* BE CERTAIN THAT EVENTS *AFTER* HIS EARLY DEATH WOULD BE RADICALLY ALTERED!

AND WE *CAN'T* BE ASSURED THAT AN EVEN MORE DANGER-OUS WORLD WOULDN'T SOMEHOW EMERGE!

I--I UNDER-STAND. I FOUND MYSELF IN *1943* RECENTLY--*

--AND KNEW I DARED NOT CHANGE THE WORLD DESPITE THE EVIL AND HEINOUS ACTIONS OF THE TIME!

YOU SHOULD HAVE REMOVED HITLER JUST AS I REMOVED MONARCH!

AND THAT'S EXACTLY WHAT MAKES YOU A *CRIMINAL* IN OUR EYES!

YOU, WAVERIDER, ARE A LOOSE CANNON FIRING WILDLY AT TIME'S FOUNDATION!

YOU CONCERN YOURSELF TOO MUCH WITH MERE *MOMENTS* OF TIME RATHER THAN ITS WHOLE TAPESTRY!

*Back in SUPERMAN #54.

"CRIMINAL"? JUST BECAUSE HE SEES HIS JOB DIFFERENTLY THAN YOU DO?

THIS IS *NOT* A JOB FOR US, SUPERMAN!

IT IS A MATTER OF COMPLETE DEVOTION-- IT IS A *CALLING*... A *SACRED DUTY!*

WALK WITH ME, SUPERMAN. I TRULY WANT YOU TO UNDERSTAND OUR WAY.

CONSIDERING YOU DIDN'T EVEN WANT ME TO KNOW YOU EXIST, THAT SEEMS SURPRISING!

WHAT'S DONE IS DONE. AND YOU *DID* ENCOUNTER US BEFORE WHEN OUR FALLEN COMRADE DESTROYED THE MOON.

WE REGRET THAT HIS ACTIONS CAUSED YOU TO RICOCHET WILDLY THROUGH TIME --

--BUT WE TRIED TO REPAY YOU AS BEST AS POSSIBLE.

HOLD IT--! THAT TIME LOIS AND I HAD ON MOUNT FUJI! IT WAS YOU!

TIME *DID* SEEM TO CRAWL FOR US, BUT I HAD NO IDEA...

MY COMRADES ARE UNAWARE OF MY ACTIONS THAT DAY... AS THEY'D HARDLY APPROVE --

--NO MATTER HOW SMALL OR APPROPRIATE THE RISK.

EVEN THOUGH YOU WERE MESSING WITH MY PERSONAL LIFE-- THANKS, IT WAS NICE.

ENOUGH, LIR! IT IS TIME FOR THEM TO RETURN!

AS LONG AS YOU LEAVE THE GENERATOR HERE, I --

HAVEN'T YOU BEEN *LISTENING?!*

WE WILL DO NOTHING TO ALTER *TIME* AS IT HAS BEEN *RECORDED.*

IT'S GOING BACK AND IF IT BLOWS, IT *BLOWS!*

HUNTER IS RIGHT, SUPERMAN. THIS IS THE WAY IT *MUST* BE.

PLEASE DON'T HATE US FOR THIS.

GOOD-BYE.

DON'T TRY TO COME BACK HERE, WAVERIDER. WE'LL HAVE MOVED ONCE YOU'RE GONE.

WE'RE STARTING TO FADE!

SHE'S DOING IT WITH THAT WRIST CONTROL!

WHICH IS EXACTLY WHY I'M TAKING IT WITH ME!

HEY, YOU CAN'T HAVE THAT!

TOO LATE! THEY'RE GONE!

NOW WAVERIDER IS *SURE* TO INTERFERE!

THAT BLIP IN TIME WASN'T CAUSED BY THE GENERATOR EXPLODING!

IT WAS CAUSED BY *WAVERIDER* CHANGING TIME!

1991... AGAIN.

I HAVE ONLY THE MEREST FRACTION OF A SECOND TO ACT BEFORE TIME RESUMES ITS MARCH--

AS ENERGY, I HAVEN'T HAD THE POWER TO TAKE OBJECTS INTO THE TIME STREAM. BUT WITH THIS WRIST BAND--

--AND THE GENERATOR COMPLETES ITS DEADLY EXPLOSION.

--NOW I CAN ACCOMPLISH ANYTHING.

THE NEXT FEW MOMENTS--

YEEEOW! THAT QUANTUM THING-A-MAJIG JUST DISAPPEARED!

QUITE A SHOW, EH, MATT?

--WHICH WERE ONCE SO TRAUMATIC TO YOUNG MATT RYDER--

--WILL NEVER OCCUR.

IT MUST'VE ATOMIZED ITSELF RIGHT OUT OF EXISTENCE!

GUESS IT WASN'T AS DANGEROUS AS THE SCIENTISTS FIGURED!

AWESOME! THE MOST EXCELLENT THING I EVER SAW, DAD!

SUPERMAN SAVED US ALL! HE FLEW THAT THING OUTTA HERE--

"--RIGHT IN THE NICK OF TIME!"

I MADE IT.

AND SO DID THE QUANTUM GENERATOR.

HERE, LONG AGO, BEFORE EARTH EVEN EXISTED, ITS EXPLOSION CAN DO LITTLE HARM.

THE WRIST-DEVICE WORKED EXACTLY AS I HAD THEORIZED IN MY OWN TIME...!

AND THANKS TO ITS ABILITY TO AFFECT MATTER, THIS ERA'S MATTHEW RYDER WILL GROW UP MUCH DIFFERENTLY THAN I DID.

HE'LL BE ALIVE AND WELL WITH A MOTHER AND FATHER TO RAISE HIM.

AND I OWE IT ALL TO --

"--THE LINEAR MEN!"

BUT WE CAN'T SEE INTO ALTERNATE TIMELINES! HOW DO YOU KNOW THAT WAVERIDER CHANGED TIME?

SIMPLE, WAVERIDER, A MATT RYDER IN SOME REALITY--

--SAID THAT HIS PARENTS DIED THAT DAY WHEN THE GENERATOR EXPLODED.

WELL, I REMEMBER THAT DAY TOO. ONLY I'VE ALWAYS REMEMBERED IT AS AN AWESOME DAY. AS THE DAY--

-- THAT SUPERMAN SAVED US ALL. FOR WAVERIDER AND I HAD THE SAME BEGINNINGS. WE'RE BOTH MATT RYDERS --

-- ONLY THE TRAGIC DIVERGENCE OF *HIS* TIME-LINE HAS ALLOWED ME *MY* SUBSEQUENT SUCCESSES.

LOOKS LIKE YOU *BOTH* GOT REAL INTERESTED IN TIME TRAVEL THOUGH.

MY INTEREST WAS BORN THAT SAME FATEFUL DAY. OBVIOUSLY HIS WAS TOO.

BUT NOW THAT HE HAS ONE OF OUR OVER-RIDE UNITS, DOESN'T HE BECOME EVEN *MORE* DANGEROUS TO THE FLOW OF TIME?

WE MUST BE VIGILANT IN THAT MATTER, THOUGH IF HE IS TRULY LIKE ME...

...IT'S JUST A MATTER OF TIME BEFORE HE, TOO, REALIZES --

--"*THE END*" *ALWAYS* JUSTIFIES THE MEANS!

I STILL DON'T UNDERSTAND IT, SUPERMAN! THAT QUANTUM GENERATOR SHOULD HAVE DESTROYED SEVERAL SQUARE BLOCKS!

BESIDES, IT'S A NEW TECHNOLOGY! WHO KNOWS WHAT REALLY HAPPENED.

GOOD POINT. THERE ARE A LOT OF UNKNOWNS OUT THERE, SUPERMAN.

NEXT WEEK METROPOLIS IS PLUNGED INTO DARKNESS AS SUPERMAN LITERALLY LOSES HIS MIND AT THE HANDS OF THE MYSTERIOUS *MR. Z!* THAT'S "*BLACKOUT*" *PART ONE* in *ADVENTURES #484* IN JUST SEVEN DAYS.

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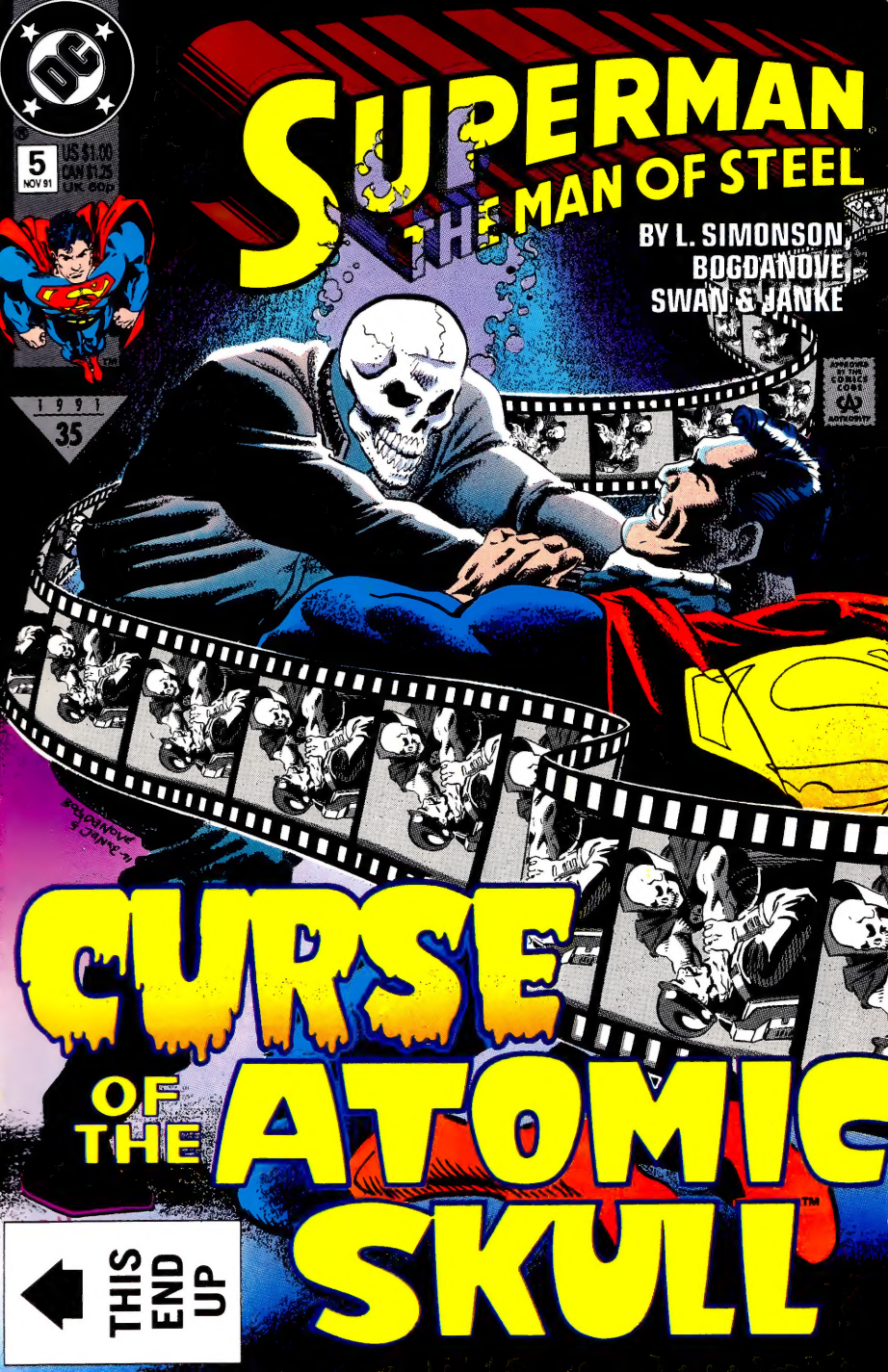
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